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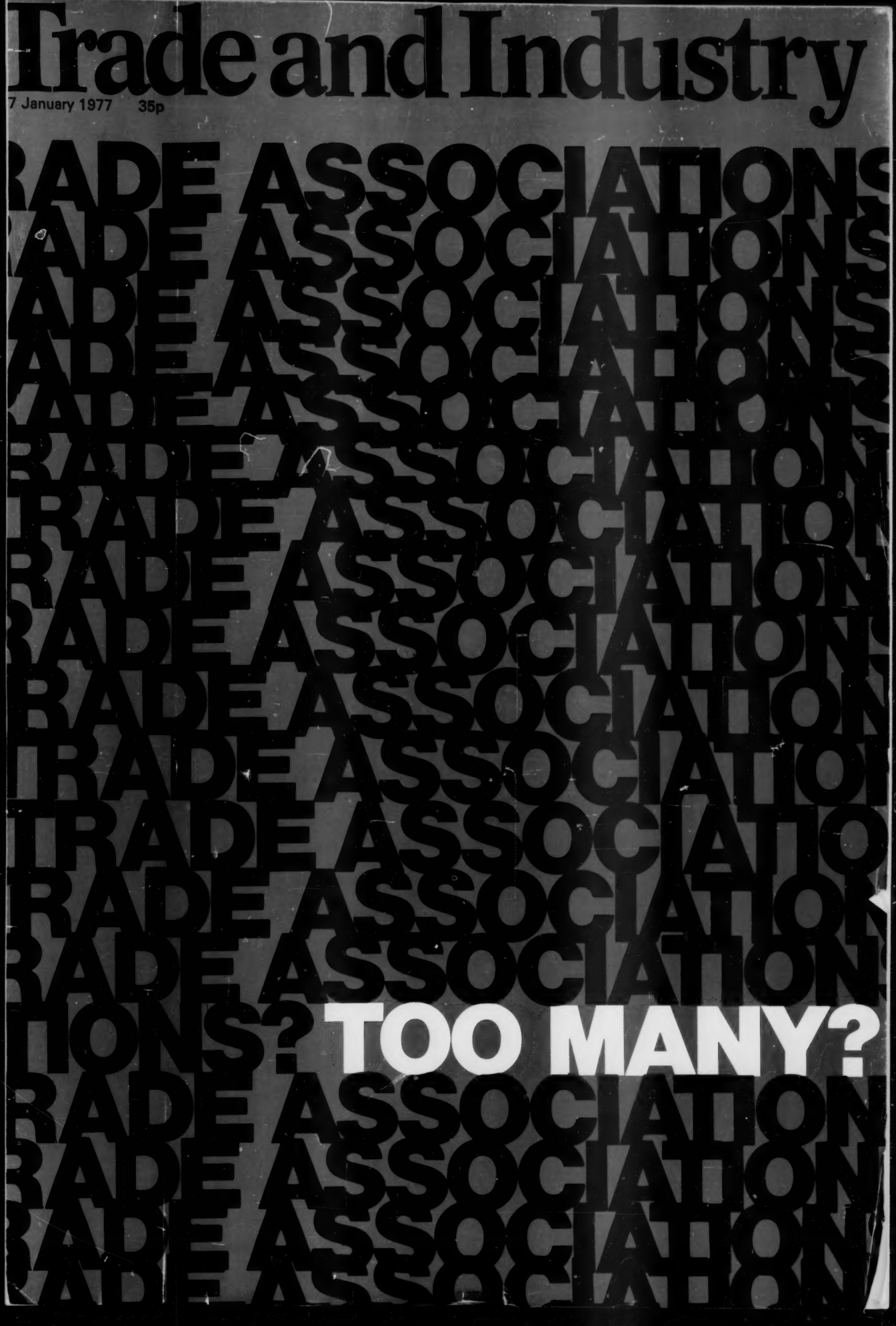

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Trade and Industry

7 January 1977

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

Should there be fewer trade associations in the UK – or, at least, should the pattern of trade representation be simpler and more logical? An article on page 14 discusses these questions and reports on the work sponsored by the CBI and the ABCC

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Industry's investment intentions for the New Year

Replies to the Department of Industry's latest survey of investment intentions indicate that the volume of investment by manufacturing industry in 1977 will be 10-15 per cent higher than in 1976. The forecast compares with a rise of 15-20 per cent suggested by the previous survey last August-September.

The revised estimate implies a rapid rate of growth during 1977. The forecast for 1978 is more tentative. The survey suggests another strong increase in 1978 which would take investment back to the order of magnitude experienced in 1970 and 1974.

The forecasts are based on replies from industry received in November and the first half of December. A full report will be published in *Trade and Industry* next week.

New Year's honours for services to export

Industry featured prominently in the New Year's honours. The following awards were cited 'for services to export'.

Knights Bachelor

K. R. B. Bond
deputy managing director, General Electric Co Ltd.
C. Booth, CBE, TD
chairman, The National Exhibition Centre Ltd.
H. H. T. Hudson
chairman of Lloyd's.
John Rix, MBE
managing director, Vosper Thornycroft and Co Ltd.
J. B. Woodson, CBE, TD
chairman, Clark Chapman Ltd and chairman, Reyrolle Parsons Ltd.

CBE

G. K. Duddridge
lately director of Submarine Systems Division, Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.
J. S. Halbert
deputy chairman and managing director, Associated British Machine Tool Makers Ltd.
J. R. Hendin
assistant managing director, Vickers Ltd.
Joseph Patrick
vice-president, Europe, Cummins Engine Co Ltd.
R. H. Thorpe
deputy chairman and managing director, Anderson Strathclyde Ltd.

OBE

H. O. Barrett
director general, The Machine Tool Trades Association.
F. W. Brooks
chairman and managing director, A. A. Jones and Shipman Ltd, Leicester.
S. W. Craigie
chief project engineer, Armaments, M. L. Aviation Co Ltd, Slough.
D. P. Ercolani
joint managing director, Furniture Industries Ltd.
N. K. Evans
marketing director, Platt Saco Lowell.
A. R. Franks
director, Trebor (Overseas) Ltd.
Waheeb Rizk
managing director, GEC Gas Turbines Ltd.
C. W. Simms
director and chief executive, Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
S. H. G. Twining
export director, R. Twining and Co Ltd.
G. M. Warren, TD
sales director, Aveling-Barford Ltd.

MBE

H. G. W. Bucknell
export director, Multico Co Ltd.
Maj. V. R. B. Smallwood, TD
lately director, British Export Houses Association.
W. N. Staynes
assistant to the managing director, Redifon Flight Simulation Ltd, Wandsworth.
Alfred Tayler
lately director, British Textile Machinery Association.
Mrs R. J. Taylor
sales director, Britains Ltd.
J. W. Wright
chairman and managing director, Barrhead Kid Co Ltd.

Mr Dell to lead trade talks with Iran

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, is to lead the British delegation to the fifth meeting of the UK/Iran joint ministerial commission on trade and economic development to be held in Tehran next week. Iran is the UK's biggest middle eastern export market.

600th northern applicant for financial assistance

Liner Concrete Co Ltd of Gateshead has become the 600th northern business to apply for selective financial assistance from the Department of Industry. The successful application brings the regional total offered by the Department of Industry to £30 million, and the number of jobs created or safeguarded to 40,000. The SFA scheme began in August 1972 and in the four years it has run in the northern region it has been involved with projects totalling an investment of about £350 million. The aid given by the department under the 1972 Industry Act, is on the recommendation of the Northern Industrial Development Board and has included loans on favourable terms, interest relief grants, removal grants and grants for offices and service industries.

Selective Financial Assistance has helped companies to finance developments in all parts of the region. The removal and service industry grants have been provided specifically to induce firms to move projects into the area.

The department's regional office, which has recently moved to Stanegate House, Groat Market, Newcastle upon Tyne (tel. 24722), has given help from a few hundred to many thousand pounds in a wide variety of fields. The success rate of applicants is very high. Of the 600 projects put before the board since 1972, only 40 have been rejected.

Richard Sutton, regional director of the Department of Industry said: 'We are delighted to be able to help firms both large and small throughout the northern region and the fact that well over 95 per cent of the projects before the board have been approved shows the high quality of the applications. At a time of high unemployment, a scheme which can claim to have created 40,000 jobs is of tremendous value and must be used more widely. We are always looking for firms who want to expand or move into the region. The success story of Liner Concrete, our 600th applicant, and many others like it should be an incentive to northern firms to use our facilities to the full.'

ILO conventions and recommendations

Government endorsement of the principle of consultation with employers and workers on how best to apply international labour standards was announced in a white paper* published on 16 December. The white paper sets out the texts of four conventions and four recommendations adopted by International Labour Conferences in June 1975 and June 1976 and reports the government's decisions on them.

* International Labour Conference – proposed action by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on four Conventions and Recommendations adopted at the 1975 and 1976 Sessions of the International Labour Conference. Cmnd 6674. Price £1.25.

Nedo report on output, investment and productivity of UK nationalised industries

Output, investment and productivity of nine UK nationalised industries is examined in a report[1] by the National Economic Development Office. The report is the third background paper to Nedo's study of the nationalised industries.

The report says that the diverse environments in which the corporations operate are reflected in the trends. British Airways and Post Office telecommunications, with trend growth of output of about 10 per cent per annum, employ a modern, changing technology and have experienced dynamically expanding markets; British Gas has been transformed over the period of the study from manufacturing a product by traditional processes, into being primarily a distributor of North Sea gas. In all these cases output grew much faster than the rate for all manufacturing industry.

The output of the electricity industry (England and Wales) also grew faster than that of manufacturing, at least until 1970. Since then its growth has been held back as a result of the slow growth of the economy, the relative increase in fuel prices and competition from gas for the energy markets.

All the other corporations had basically static or declining output. The most notable case of declining output was the National Coal Board, especially between 1964 and 1970 when pits were being closed at a rapid rate. No change in trend is yet apparent. In the relatively short period of their existence both the British Steel Corporation and the National Freight Corporation have seen output decline by about 4 per cent per annum and National Bus by 2 per cent per annum. The trend estimate is especially distorted in the case of the corporations with only a short life by the effect of the recession in 1974 and 1975 – the more so in the case of BSC in view of the sharp fluctuations to which the iron and steel industry is subject. Output of British Rail and the postal side of the Post Office has been essentially stagnant.

Both British Airways and PO telecommunications have increased output more rapidly than output per head so that employment has risen, while with both output and output per head static PO posts have kept their employment practically unchanged. Output declined in both the Post Office series in 1975 – doubtless largely because of the sharp rises in tariffs, and employment also fell. In every other corporation, employment has declined in most of them more rapidly than employment in manufacturing industry.

Gas employment was practically static until 1967 but since then, with output per head rising even faster than the rapidly expanding output; it has tended to fall. In electricity, employment rose until 1966, since when it has fallen steadily.

In both NCB and British Rail employment declined at rates well in excess of 6 per cent per annum up to 1970, though the decline has been less marked since then. British Rail's output per head appears to have increased considerably more rapidly than that of manufacturing until 1970, but the increase since has been slower. The decline in British Rail's labour force appears to have come practically to a halt in the most recent years. In both National Bus and NFC the decline in employment was considerably faster than that in output until 1973 so that output per head rose – at about the same rate as in manufacturing in NFC and more rapidly in National Bus. Since then output per head has fallen significantly in both these corporations.

Capital expenditure (fixed investment) is subject to more severe fluctuations than the other series described here. Several of the corporations showed a tendency to rise to a peak with subsequent decline, with the peaks at different dates. Investment in NCB fell rapidly after a peak in 1963, but has been basically static (with sharp year-to-year fluctuations) in the 1970s – the rises in 1974 and 1975 may reflect Plan for Coal. Electricity's peak year was 1966. Investment more than halved to a low point in 1973 following revisions to expected national growth and expected growth in the energy market. Both the rise and fall in British Gas, associated with North Sea development, were particularly steep with 1967 the peak year and 1973 again a low point. British Rail also conforms to the pattern of a peak in the mid-1960s and a subsequent decline.

British Airways followed a rather different pattern with investment concentrated in the period 1968-71. In Post Office telecommunications there was a continuous rise in fixed investment until 1973. Apart from 1969 there was also a steady rise in the relatively small posts investment to 1970; since then, however, it has fallen back sharply. After a modest level of fixed investment in its first two years, BSC embarked on a programme of new investment which is reflected in the figures for the 1970s. Both National Bus and NFC invest on a modest scale: the very steep decline in NFC is partly due to the disposal of some of their assets, especially depots and warehouses, which are netted out in these figures.

Capital stock figures are only available for a few of the corporations and even there they are notoriously unreliable. For what they are worth they suggest capital productivity (output per unit of capital) in British Gas, after holding more or less steady until 1968, dipped sharply to 1970, since when it has grown rapidly. This pattern reflects the time lags as capital expenditure and capital stock in the North Sea distribution system built up rapidly in the late 1960s, though most of the output rise did not appear until the 1970s. Not surprisingly capital per head rose rapidly. These movements in output, capital and employment are reflected in total factor productivity which rose a little more rapidly than in manufacturing until 1968, paused until 1970, since when it has grown at a remarkable rate with 70 per cent growth over five years.

In electricity the rapid growth in capital stock in the mid and late 1960s began to pay off in a rise in capital productivity after 1968, though it has been relatively modest partly because of the recent set back to output.

In British Airways capital productivity rose almost continuously though capital per head fell quite sharply between 1965 and 1970 during the period when employment was rising most quickly; the heavy programme of investment in 1970 and 1971 was reflected in a 18½ per cent rise in capital stock between 1970 and 1972. These factors were reflected in a rapid rise in total factor productivity until 1966, a more modest increase in the next four years, followed by rapid growth again from 1970 to 1973. Over the period growth was considerably more rapid than in manufacturing.

The fairly steady growth in Post Office telecommunications' output, employment and capital expenditure is reflected in rapid and steady growth in capital productivity, capital per man and total factor productivity. However, the setback in 1975 was particularly sharp. In BSC the decline in output and employment combine with rises in capital stock to give a decline in capital productivity and sharp rise in capital per head. Because of the effects of the production difficulties in 1974 and the trade cycle it is difficult to see the true trend in total factor productivity.

The Nedo study of nationalised industries was published on 18 November. The first background paper, entitled 'Financial analysis' was published in July 1976, and the second entitled 'Relationships of Government and public enterprises in France, West Germany and Sweden' was published in December.

[1] *A study of nationalized industries. background paper 3* £3.00 (£3.32 with postage) from NEDO Books, 1 Steel House, 11 Tothill Street, London SW1 9LJ.

Machine tool industry scheme extended for a further year

The Department of Industry announced on 21 December that assistance under the Machine Tool Industry Scheme, within the £20 million originally announced, will be available to firms applying during 1977. The scheme had been due to close on 31 December 1976; the deadline by which applications have to be received is now 31 December 1977.

Corresponding changes are made to the dates by which projects have to be completed to be eligible for assistance: product development projects under Part 1 of the scheme now have to be completed by 31 August 1981 (previously 31 August 1980), and projects for modernisation, expansion and rationalisation under Part 2 of the scheme by 31 December 1979 (previously 31 August 1978).

Inquiries about the scheme should be made in writing to the department's regional offices.

Industrial investment guidelines for Scottish Development Agency

Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, has issued industrial investment guidelines to the Scottish Development Agency. The guidelines closely follow the draft published on 1 March 1976.

The agency is, however, given more discretion to make loans and engage in certain other financial transactions without notifying the Secretary of State; and requirements for consultation with the Director General of Fair Trading on merger situations are extended to the agency's subsidiaries.

The guidelines are designed to regulate the exercise of the agency's functions of providing finance for industry and carrying on industrial undertakings. They parallel guidelines for the exercise of similar functions by the National Enterprise Board, which were laid before parliament on 21 December (see *Trade and Industry*, 24/31 December 1976, page 851).

Under the guidelines the Scottish Development Agency will have a large measure of commercial and operational freedom in its industrial functions within a broad framework of strategies and financial objectives agreed with the Secretary of State.

In accordance with the government's intentions that the Scottish Development Agency should not prop up lame ducks, the guidelines require the agency to secure an adequate return on the capital it employs, and to have regard to profitability in reaching investment decisions. It is stressed that the agency's purposes are wider than those of commercial undertakings, and reflecting this the return on capital to be secured will not be governed exclusively by commercial considerations.

Where the agency establishes its own companies, it is required under the guidelines to ensure that they compete on equal terms with companies in the private sector and avoid showing undue preference in their trading relationships. SDA companies will have the same rights as any other companies to government assistance. The guidelines propose that the agency should have regard to the practice of companies in the private sector in relation to the debts of their subsidiaries.

The guidelines require the agency, in making loans, to charge a rate of interest not less than would be paid by companies of the highest standing in raising finance. In investing companies, the agency will have the same opportunities and be subject to the same obligations as other investors. The guidelines indicate, however, that it should normally seek to obtain holdings with the agreement of the company's board. Where it wishes to obtain more than 10 per cent of the voting shares of a publicly quoted company without the directors' agreement, the agency is required to notify the secretary of state; and where the agency or its subsidiaries wish to acquire 30 per cent or more of the voting stock of a public company – which might involve them in making an offer for the whole stock – approval of the secretary of state is in general required. The agency has however been given a general authority allowing its subsidiaries to acquire more than 30 per cent of the share capital of a company provided that the acquisition is unopposed and that the total cost of the shareholding does not exceed £500,000.

Industrial expansion seminar in Dundee

Over 100 industrialists from the Dundee and Tayside area attended a seminar on industrial expansion on 13 December. The meeting, which was chaired by Lord Provost Farquahar of Dundee, was organised by the industrial development division of the Scottish Economic Planning Department.

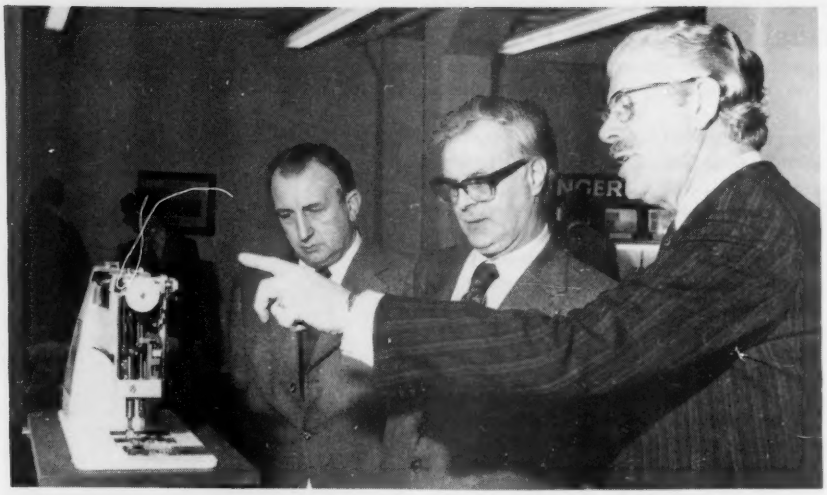
The principal speaker, Mr A. G. Manzie, outlined the functions of the industrial development division for which he is responsible, and underlined the need for even greater contact between firms and his office.

Speaking of the broader picture, Mr Manzie accepted that at the present time there was not a great deal of inward investment coming to Scotland or indeed to the UK. This was because of the world trade recession. However, his office, which advised companies on factories and locations as well as finance, was receiving a steady flow of inquiries, which seemed to indicate that some countries and industries were seriously considering investing in Scotland.

Details of government schemes to provide financial incentives to industry were explained by Mr R. Burns, who emphasised the facilities available in the division to 'package' assistance for new and expanding projects, and also to provide help for modernisation and rationalisation schemes.

Mr L. Baston, the manager of Small Firms Information Centre in Glasgow, outlined the facilities and advice which he and his staff could provide, and the meeting concluded with an open forum on general industrial problems.

Lord Provost Farquahar, chairing the industrial expansion seminar in Dundee.



Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, visited the Clydebank factory of Singer Co (UK) Ltd recently when he toured the works and met management and union representatives. His visit coincided with a government offer of financial assistance in connection with the company's recent decision to transfer production of industrial sewing machines from West Germany to Clydebank. The government has offered the company an interest relief grant not exceeding £52,650 and a removal grant not exceeding £318,000. Total project costs will be over £800,000. Picture shows Mr J. M. Wotherspoon, managing director, explaining the workings of a modern Singer sewing machine to Mr Millan. Also in the picture (left) is Mr A. G. Manzie, under secretary, Industrial Development Division, Scottish Economic Planning Department.

Double jobs boost for Aberlour and Speyside

The Speyside town of Aberlour, Banffshire is to receive a double boost to its employment opportunities in the next few months, says the North East Scotland Development Agency.

The Scottish Development Agency 465m² advance factory has been allocated to polyetheylene film manufacturers C. K. Addison and Co Ltd of Louth. The Aberlour factory will serve the Scottish and north of England market for the firm's product which is chiefly used for wrapping foodstuffs and is made up into bags for use by chain-stores, supermarkets and food shops.

Production will begin next spring with an initial labour force of 25 drawn mainly from the local area. The company hope to double the size of the factory almost immediately and the labour requirement is then expected to rise to about 50.

The other major jobs boost will be due to a new shortbread factory now under construction for Joseph Walker of Aberlour by Moray District Council.

Increased demand for the firm's famous shortbread, now exported to several countries, has led to the need for bigger premises. The 1,858m² factory on the industrial estate will be operated in addition to the firm's present premises in Aberlour and will generate about 30-40 jobs.

Four government factories at Grimsby

Work is to start soon on the construction of four advance factories for the Department of Industry at Grimsby, Humberside. The English Industrial Estates Corporation announces that a block of four terrace units totalling about 900m² (10,000 sq ft) is to be built at Cleethorpe Road and three units of 450m² (5,000 sq ft), 900m² (10,000 sq ft) and 1,350m² (15,000 sq ft) are to be built on the South Humberside industrial estate.

A contract worth about £418,000, which includes site development works, has been awarded to F. P. A. Finnegan Ltd, Sheffield. Architects for the project are Sir Charles Nicholson and Rushton of Grimsby and the quantity surveyors are Turner and Townsend, Leeds.

The premises should be ready for occupation during September 1977. Inquiries on construction work should be addressed to: J. Derbyshire, regional manager, English Industrial Estates Corporation, 25 Silver Street, Doncaster, tel. Doncaster (0302) 61560. Inquiries on purchase or lease should go to: regional director, Department of Industry, Yorkshire and Humberside Region, Priestly House, Park Row, Leeds, tel. Leeds (0532) 443171.

Knowsley advance factory occupied

F. D. Centre (Liverpool) Ltd are purchasing a 2,250m² (25,000 sq ft) advance factory built for the Department of Industry by the English Industrial Estates Corporation on the Knowsley Industrial Estate, Merseyside.

F. D. Centre (Liverpool) Ltd, who only recently took occupation of the premises, manufacture ladies' underwear and are already employing over 100 people. This figure is expected to reach 300 when full production is achieved.

Welcome for minister's descision on Tyneside

'First class news for the region' was the initial reaction of Councillor Michael Campbell, leader of Tyne and Wear County Council, to the decision by William Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, that the Tyneside metro rapid transport system could go ahead as planned.

'This means the continuation of existing contracts affecting nearly 1,300 jobs and with the government's announcement there will be an early release of further major contracts amounting to £21 million,' Councillor Campbell told a press conference.

'These contracts, all of which should create an immediate build-up of 600 jobs within the next two to three months and when peak construction of the system is reached by 1978 the number of jobs, locally and nationally will amount to 7,500. These will include, apart from those engaged on site works, many manufacturing workers in the West Midlands, Manchester, Leicester, Wiltshire, Leeds and the south east.'

Councillor Rowland Scott-Batey, chairman of the county transport committee who has led the metro project team since its inception, said that he was certain the cost of the scheme would be kept within the ceiling of £161 million, with allowance for inflation.

David Howard, director of engineering (metro) of the Tyne and Wear passenger transport executive, said that the metro would provide a British shop window for the light rapid transport systems now being planned in countries throughout the world where mass urban transport problems existed.

'Our metro test track at Backworth together with its prototype Supertram has been visited by transport and government representatives from more than two dozen countries ranging from the USA, South America, Japan, Kuwait, Singapore, western Europe and in eastern Europe', Mr Howard said.

The government grant aid for metro is to be at the rate of 70 per cent with 30 per cent coming from county finances.

Treforest paint factory to expand

John Morris, Secretary of State for Wales, has given approval for the building of a 2,044m² extension to the Pearl Paints factory on the Welsh Development Agency's Industrial Estate at Treforest.

Pearl Paints Ltd have existing premises of 4,645m² and are engaged in the manufacture of a wide range of specialised industrial paints, varnishes and lacquers.

Eric Varley announces financial objective for PO telecommunications business

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, has announced a three year financial objective for the telecommunications business of the Post Office.

Answering a parliamentary question on 23 December from Joseph Dean (Leeds West) he said:

'I have agreed with the Post Office a financial objective for the telecommunications business for each of the three years 1976/77 to 1978/79 of a real rate of return of 6 per cent. "Real return" is defined as the profit before interest but after historic and supplementary depreciation, as a percentage of average net assets revalued to replacement cost. This formulation allows for the effects of inflation both on the depreciation provision needed and on the valuation of the asset base. It thus takes account of the Post Office's current practice of providing in their accounts for supplementary depreciation; and of the work of the Sandilands and Morpeth Committees.

'Since it is not yet possible to undertake a full revaluation of the asset base in accordance with principles agreed by the accounting profession, it has been necessary to use a preliminary estimate of the replacement value of the assets. The objective will be reviewed and if necessary adjusted at such time as results of a full revaluation may be available; or if there are other significant changes in the industry's circumstances which call for a review. It is also intended each year to roll forward the objective for a further year at a level to be agreed.

'I understand that the Post Office are confident that they can achieve the objective without early increases in telecommunications charges. Reductions in charges for certain operator connected calls, will take effect in the new year. And the Post Office stated on 21 December that beyond the voluntary standstill in telecommunications charges to 31 July 1977 already announced, there are now good prospects that it will prove possible to avoid increases for a further period up to 31 March 1978.'

Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State, Department of Industry, visiting Manchester Post Office's new letter sorting office. Mr Kaufman, who has ministerial responsibility for Post Office affairs, met local officials and union representatives.

'Phone prices may be held' say Post Office

The Post Office has already guaranteed not to increase telecommunications charges until 31 July 1977. A Post Office spokesman said on 21 December that 'although we cannot be so certain about what will happen after that there are now good prospects that the Post Office will be able to avoid any increases between 1 August 1977 and 31 March 1978. We shall do everything we can to achieve this.'

If the Post Office achieves this objective it will mean that all telephone charges will have remained frozen for a total of two-and-a-half years.

The setting of an extended period of stability for telephone prices has been made possible by a buoyant telecommunications service which last year showed a profit of £155 million. 'We expect to do better this year,' commented a spokesman.

On 4 January the Post Office cut the cost of most phone calls which customers cannot dial themselves. Charges were brought more into line with dialled call rates. This move, worth £5 million a year to customers, means that more than 100 million calls will be cheaper in 1977.

The Post Office has already given a commitment that there will be no increase in basic letter rates before 31 March 1977 – a total of one-and-a-half years without price increases for basic letter rates.

Post Office's engineering capability 'never higher'

The Post Office has the skills to give Britain the most advanced forms of telecommunications services in the world, Professor James Merriman, retiring board member for technology and senior director of development, said last month.

Prof Merriman left the Post Office at the end of last year after a career spanning 40 years – most of it centring on research, development, planning and direction of national and international telecommunications. He will be succeeded as senior director of development by J. S. Whyte, currently director of purchasing and supply.

Commenting on the future outlook of telecommunications, Prof Merriman said the Post Office's engineering and scientific capability was never higher.

As senior director of development, he has led the development of a whole new range of communications techniques. Among these are waveguides, System X and fibre optics. Now nearing the operational phase, the millimetric waveguide is a copper tube some 50mm (2 in) in diameter which can carry half a million phone calls at once.

Then there is System X – a new generation of telephone exchanges that will operate on an all-electronic basis. Controlled by computers, these exchanges will have no moving parts – thereby providing greater reliability, faster connections and clearer speech.

Fibre optics is another revolutionary project. Telephone, television and other messages may one day travel down ultra-thin strands of glass by means of laser light. A telephone cable, using such advanced techniques, would carry tens of thousands of conversations at lower cost than current methods.

Post Office auditors reappointed

Eric Varley, the Secretary of State for Industry, has reappointed Messrs Coopers and Lybrand of Abacus House, Gutter Lane, London, EC2V 8AH and Messrs Touche Ross and Co of 3 London Wall Buildings, London, EC2M 5PH as joint auditors of the Post Office.

The appointment covers the audit of the account for the financial year 1976/77. It has been made in pursuance of subsection (2) of section 42 of the Post Office Act, 1969, as amended by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (Dissolution) Order 1974.

These two firms were originally appointed as auditors of the Post Office in 1969 and have audited all its accounts since then.

Peak levels at British airports

The number of late visitors through the south east airports run by the British Airports Authority reached summer peak levels during November. Heathrow totalled 1.7 million passengers to record an exceptional 16 per cent increase over November 1975, the highest monthly increase for three years. Passenger traffic through Gatwick grew by a more modest 9.5 per cent while Stansted gained most from the boom in in-

bound shopping trips with a massive 71 per cent gain mainly from Scandinavia.

The BAA report that passenger traffic through their seven airports in the south east and Scotland showed a 14 per cent growth overall. Edinburgh and Aberdeen throughput was up 33 per cent and 27 per cent respectively.

In contrast with the general trend, Glasgow showed a 5 per cent drop and Prestwick a shortfall of −8 per cent.

November saw the highest increase overall in air transport movements at 5.6 per cent recorded this year through south east airports.

The seven airports total for cargo tonnage rose by 10 per cent to 48,400 metric tonnes over the corresponding month last year as the recovery in air freight, which began in the early summer, continued.

UK charter air freight regulations to be liberalised

The CAA proposes to modify the UK charter air freight conditions.

Capacity: It is proposed to introduce a simpler control over the total number of flights by each airline per annum. The aggregate quota would cover all flights to and from the UK by each carrier (including both split-charter and sole-use charter operations) by its own aircraft or aircraft leased from UK or foreign airlines.

Consignment size: The authority proposes one modification to the present minimum consignment size restriction. The minimum weight of a consignment would continue to be 500kg but in future it is proposed to allow forwarders to consolidate consignments below this weight. Single consignments of less than 500kg would be carried solely by scheduled carriers.

These proposals (which will be formally presented at the annual Freight Hearing expected to be held in April 1977) are the outcome of intensive study and consultations carried out by the authority following the publication of its report *International Air Freight Services* in September 1975. These, say the authority, confirmed the conclusion that the present system is not fully effective.

Big increase in earnings from tourism

Thirteen per cent more overseas visitors came to the UK in the third quarter of 1976 compared with the same period last year. Their expenditure in the UK amounted to £643 million, an increase of 44 per cent over the previous year.

The record favourable balance on the travel account of £208 million (seasonally adjusted) in this quarter was considerably greater than the previous quarter's record balance (revised) of £122 million. The balance for the first three quarters of the year was £417 million compared with £239 million in the whole of 1975 and £154 million in 1974.

Visits abroad by UK residents declined by 9 per cent on a year ago while expenditure abroad rose by 7 per cent to £413 million. The number of visits abroad (4.5 million) was still considerably greater than the number of overseas visitors coming to the UK (a record 4.0 million) but whereas UK expenditure abroad averaged £91 per visit, expenditure by overseas visitors in the UK averaged £162 per visit.

A fuller report, with figures, will be published next week in the statistics section.

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under Section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the date specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
13 December 1976		
1,224,555	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	Improved photographic material
1,426,012	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	Improved photographic silver halide emulsions
1,163,972	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in servo-controlled change-speed transmissions of vehicles
1,200,838	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in hydraulic correctors for controlling a member, notably of an automatic change-speed transmission
1,411,182	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Improvements in or relating to data processing
1,414,459	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Electronic relay
1,290,806	Hans Meyer	Improvements in or relating to a linear-dimension gauge
1,293,273	Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot	Improvements in adjustable louvres of heating and ventilation systems of vehicles
1,324,663	Kemovit A/S	Supplementary feed for new born pigs
1,330,296	Coal Industry (Patents) Ltd	Method of manufacturing carbonaceous artefacts
1,378,757	Maurice John Barker	Improvements in or relating to hinged closure member assemblies
1,379,894	EMI-Varian Ltd	Improvements in or relating to tuning arrangements for resonant cavities
1,381,103	Licentia Patent-Verwaltungs-Gesellschaft mit Beschrankter Haftung	Improvements in or relating to transistorised line deflection circuits
1,417,588	International Standard Electric Corporation	Improvements in and relating to radio-frequency receivers
1,429,869	Schill and Seilacher Verwaltung GmbH	Organophosphates and their use in a process for imparting a wash-resistant and dry-cleaning-resistant flameproof finish to textile fabrics
1,433,713	Rafaut and Cie	A device for actuating an electrical contact
1,441,728	Robert Geffroy	Improvements in or relating to pistons

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patent Form No. 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage
Comptroller

New joint review body for supervision of securities market

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, has announced details of the joint review body set up by the Department of Trade and the Bank of England to review the functioning and supervision of the securities market.

Answering a parliamentary question from Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby), on the terms of reference and membership of the review body, Mr Dell said:

'The terms of reference will be as follows:

> "To keep under review the functioning of the securities market and the arrangements for its supervision; to identify any gaps or any deficiencies in the combination of statutory and self-regulatory control; and to make recommendations as appropriate to the Secretary of State and the Governor of the Bank of England."

'The joint committee will be responsible jointly to the Secretary of State and to the Governor of the Bank of England; it will have no executive powers.

'The new arrangements will not alter the existing powers and responsibilities of my department and the bank; but equally they will not pre-empt the work of the Committee on Financial Institutions.

'The appropriate deputy secretary of the department for the time being and the deputy governor will be joint chairmen, and the membership will consist of two officials from each side, to be nominated from time to time by the joint chairmen.

'The joint committee may delegate work from time to time, co-opting as necessary representatives from other bodies such as the Stock Exchange and the Panel on Take-overs and Mergers; co-option will not however be extended to the joint committee itself.'

The decision to set up the joint review body was announced in parliament on 21 October 1976 (see *Trade and Industry*, 29 October, page 271).

The appointment of the Committee on Financial Institutions was announced on 7 October. Under the chairmanship of Sir Harold Wilson, the committee will review the role and functioning, at home and abroad, of financial institutions in the UK and their value to the economy.

The Register of Restrictive Trading Agreements (Restrictive Trade Practices Acts 1956 to 1973 consolidated by the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976)

Additions and amendments to the register

The Fair Trading Act 1973 gave the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection the power to extend restrictive trade practices legislation to services. The order bringing this into effect came into operation on 22 March 1976. This required that details of restrictive agreements in virtually all service industries should be submitted to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) by 21 June 1976 unless they had been abandoned by that date. Details of agreements made on or after 22 March 1976 have to be furnished to the office before the restrictions come into operation or within three months of the making of the agreement, whichever is the earlier. (This requirement already operates for 'goods' agreements.)

The index of 'goods' agreements on the register, as it stood at 30 July 1957, was published in the *Board of Trade Journal* on 16 August 1957 (pages 371-378) to which sub-

LIST I – ADDITIONS TO THE REGISTER

Registered no. of agreement	Commodity or service	Area if local	See above note on symbols
S/44	Aerodrome services		
S/202	Advertising		
S/307	Auctioneering and appraising		
S/200	Auctioneering and allied services		
S/194	Banking services		
S/160	Betting		
S/181	Bingo		
S/33	Boxing		
S/183	Business transfer agency		
S/56	Cargo handling operations	Liverpool	
3825	Catering services		E 9/79
S/134	Certification testing – electrical		
S/383	Cinema advertising		E 6/87
S/158	Coach hire	St Albans and Dacorum	
S/351	Coach touring	North Western	
S/223	Cold storage		
S/93	Concert agents		
3966	Contractors plant		F 8/76
S/259	Credit card facilities		
S/256	Credit card operations		
S/155	Cricket		
S/147	Design services		
S/432	Direct mail advertising		
3823	Drawing office sheet sizes and rolls		
S/112	Driving schools		
S/12	Dry cleaning, dyeing and repairing, laundering		
S/184	Electrical and electronic repairs		
S/65	Engineering design		
S/105	Entertainment agents		
S/97	Estate agency and allied services		
S/200	Estate agency and allied services		
S/26	Estate agency and allied services	Bath	
S/102	Estate agency and allied services	Bognor Regis	
S/36	Estate agency and allied services	Bournemouth	
S/69	Estate agency and allied services	Brighton and Hove	
S/35	Estate agency and allied services	Bristol	
S/455	Estate agency and allied services	Bromley	
S/416	Estate agency and allied services	Chingford and Walthamstow	
S/68	Estate agency and allied services	Croydon	
S/126	Estate agency and allied services	East Herts	
S/71	Estate agency and allied services	Elmbridge	
S/95	Estate agency and allied services	Folkestone and Hythe	
S/249	Estate agency and allied services	Hastings	
S/19	Estate agency and allied services	Hillingdon	
S/187	Estate agency and allied services	High Wycombe	
S/58	Estate agency and allied services	Hull	
S/354	Estate agency and allied services	Kingston and Surbiton	
S/162	Estate agency and allied services	Medway	
S/159	Estate agency and allied services	Mid North Surrey	
S/277	Estate agency and allied services	North London	
S/195	Estate agency and allied services	Oxford	
S/166	Estate agency and allied services	Reading	
S/307	Estate agency and allied services	Scotland	
S/415	Estate agency and allied services	Sittingbourne, Sheppey and Faversham	
S/165	Estate agency and allied services	Surrey and Hants	
S/301	Estate agency and allied services	Swansea	
S/222	Estate agency and allied services	Watford and South West Herts	
S/49	Estate agency and allied services	West Surrey	
S/367	Estate agency and allied services	Willesden	
S/241	Estate agency and allied services	Wolverhampton	
S/63	Estate agency and allied services	Worthing	
S/42	Fairground amusements		
S/275	Finance		
S/4	Football		
S/504	Football		
S/390	Football	Scotland	
S/123	Football pool betting		
S/98	Funeral arrangements	London	
S/121	Gaming		
S/344	Haulage tipping	Doncaster	
S/41	Horse riding schools		
S/418	Hotel accommodation	Bournemouth	
S/419	Hotel accommodation	Llandudno	
S/137	Hotel accommodation	London	
S/436	Hotel and guest house accommodation	Alnwick	
S/330	Illustration		
4009	Limestone jurasic	Lincolnshire	
3986	Live chicks	Scotland	
S/106	Loss assessment		
S/46	Market research		
S/136	Mortgage brokerage		
S/50	Orchestral promotion		
3829	Plastics		
S/2	Private investigation		
3981	Publishing		
S/139	Radio and TV repair	Scotland	
S/31	Recording studio facilities		
S/348	Removal		
S/5	Rice brokerage		
S/51	Road haulage	Goole	
S/505	Road passenger transport	Yorkshire	D 7/76
S/122	Rugby League football		
S/475	Rugby League football		
S/10	Sales agents		
S/397	Securities – nominee facilities		
S/59	Ship brokerage		
S/40	Ship repairing		
S/60	Shipping – cargo documentation	Dundee	
S/57	Shipping – cargo documentation	Goole	
S/497	Stevedoring	Fleetwood	
S/254	Stevedoring	Garston	
S/227	Stevedoring	Newport	
S/73	Stock and share dealing		
S/429	Taxi cab services		
S/196	Tea brokerage		
S/324	Tea – warehousing and handling		
S/322	Tea – warehousing and handling		
S/207	Television horse racing		E 12/76
S/274	Theatre design consultancy		
S/110	Tour operators		
S/331	Tug services	Bristol	
S/231	Tug services	Clyde	
S/120	Tug services	Thames	
S/200	Valuation and allied services		
S/177	Vehicle delivery		
S/164	Warehousing		
S/348	Warehousing		
S/450	Waste disposal services		
S/116	Wharfinger services	London	
S/234	Yachting		

LIST II – AMENDMENTS TO THE INDEX

Registered no. of agreement	Register index entry		Amendment
3713	Alarm appliances	B 2/73	add F 6/76
3437	Animal feeding stuffs	B 8/71	add F 10/76
822	Artists materials, reproductions, works of art, engravings, etchings, prints		delete F 11/59
3820	Cement, gravel, sand	London	add D 6/76
3850	External plant telephone cable (post office tenders)	D 3/75	add C 5/76
3852	External plant telephone cable (non post office business)	D 3/75	add C 5/76
3819	Gravel sand	London	add D 6/76
1252	Mastic asphalte (road surfacing)	N. Ireland	add F 5/76
3643	Orchestral materials		delete E 12/72
643	Putty		add D 3/73
3833	Refined sugars, syrups and treacles		add D 6/76
3851	Switchboard cables	D 3/75	add C 5/76

sequent additions and amendments have been published at approximately quarterly intervals – the last on 6 August 1976. In future, additions and amendments to the alphabetical index to the register will be published quarterly in *Trade and Industry* in a slightly modified form designed to help members of the public who wish to use the index to look at actual copies of the agreements placed on the public register. The additions to the published index will combine 'goods' and 'services' alphabetically as in List I below, and amendments, also combining 'goods' and 'services' will be shown separately as in List II below. 'Services' agreement numbers are prefixed by the letter 'S'. The indices show commodities and services which are the subject of agreements on the register, and are described as in the particulars of the agreements submitted to the Director General of Fair Trading. Where an agreement operates in a particular area this has been indicated whenever practicable.

AN EXPLANATORY NOTE ON THE SYMBOLS

'B' The letter 'B' indicates that the file contains a copy of a direction, given by the Secretary of State, discharging the Director General from his obligation to take proceedings in the Restrictive Practices Court in respect of that particular agreement during the continuance in force of the direction.

'C' The letter 'C' indicates that the file contains a copy of a declaration or order of the Restrictive Practices Court.

'D' The letter 'D' indicates that the agreement has been determined otherwise than by the passage of time.

'E' The letter 'E' indicates that the agreement has expired or will expire at a given date.

'F' The letter 'F' indicates that the agreement has been varied by the removal of all registrable restrictions or otherwise as to its terms or parties, so that it would not have been registrable had it taken the varied form at the time of registration.

The date following each symbol indicates the month and year concerned.

Agreements referred to the Restrictive Practices Court

On 10 April 1959 there was published in the *Board of Trade Journal* (page 859) a list of all agreements in respect of which Notices of Reference (constituting formal commencement of proceedings before the Restrictive Practices Court) had been issued, except those which had already been dealt with by the court. Subsequent additions have been published at approximately quarterly intervals; there have been no additions to the list in the period ending 31 December 1976.

Agreements not to be referred to the Restrictive Practices Court

The Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection may, on the representation of the Director General of Fair Trading, give directions under section 21(2) of the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976 (formerly section 9(2) of the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1968), discharging him from the duty of referring an agreement to the Restrictive Practices Court. Lists (commencing 11 April 1969) headed as this paragraph is headed, have been published periodically in the *Board of Trade Journal* and latterly in *Trade and Industry*, giving details of agreements in respect of which directions have been given. These agreements are indicated in the index to the register by the symbol 'B' and as any additions can readily be identified from the last column in List II, it is not proposed in future to show them again under this heading.

'D' and 'F' agreements

Similarly, it is not proposed in future to show again separately a list headed as this paragraph is headed. Readers who want to update their lists of agreements determined or varied during the period can readily do so by extracting the items where the appropriate symbols have been added in List II. In this connection it should be remembered that a 'D' or 'F' agreement may sometimes be replaced by a new agreement which will be separately registered. There may also be new agreements which have been given the appropriate 'D' or 'F' marking by the time they appeared in this published index: those agreements appear in List I.

Inspection of the register

The register may be inspected between 10 am and 4.30 pm on any weekday except Saturday and certain holidays at any of the following addresses:

Office of Fair Trading (Public Search Room)
Room 729
Chancery House
57 Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1SP

9 Hope Street
Edinburgh EH2 4EL

*Department of Commerce
176 Newtownbreda Road
Belfast BT1 4JX

The fee for inspecting the register is 50p per day, but if fewer than five agreements are inspected, the fee is 10p for each agreement.

Indices to the register, including ones in which commodities and services are grouped by classes, may be inspected at these addresses free of charge. There is also a card index available for inspection, listing the parties to 'service' agreements in alphabetical order.

*Only Northern Ireland agreements can be inspected on demand at this address but other agreements will be obtained for inquirers if required after inspecting the indices.

Customs and Excise annual report

Customs and Excise receipts for the year ended 31 March 1976 totalled £9,251.7 million, an increase of 24.6 per cent over the previous year and representing 32.8 per cent of central government taxation.

These facts are given in the report of the Commissioners of HM Customs and Excise for the year ending 31 March 1976 (HMSO Cmnd 6694) price £3.15.

The cost of Customs and Excise administration was approximately £174.1 million, representing about 1.88 pence for every £1 of net revenue. Included within this total is an estimated £70 million for the administration of value added tax (VAT) representing about 2 pence for every £1 of net VAT revenue.

Net receipts from VAT in this second full year of tax receipts increased by 38 per cent to £3,454.9 million; this represents 37.3 per cent of the total net Customs and Excise receipts. Approximately 1,250,800 persons were registered for VAT at 31 March 1976.

Receipts of car tax rose from £122.3 million in 1974-75 to £180.0 million in 1975-76 representing 1.9 per cent of the total Customs and Excise revenue.

Although purchase tax was abolished on 1 April 1973, arrears of tax amounting to £1.3 million were collected during 1975-76.

Excise duties

A fundamental change in the method of charging revenue duties on certain goods came into effect on 1 January 1976. The change fulfilled the United Kingdom's obligations under the Treaty of Accession to the European Communities to replace the fiscal elements in customs duties by excise duties. The change resulted in the protective element in the former customs revenue duties on wines, spirits, beer, hydrocarbon oil, matches and mechanical lighters being charged as separate protective duties under the Import Duties Act 1958. The fiscal elements in the revenue duties became chargeable under the Finance (No. 2) Act 1975 as excise duties. They are chargeable at the same rate on both home produced and imported goods.

The alcoholic strength categories for wine were extended from two to three main bands corresponding closely with those of the common customs tariff of the EEC. British wine duties were replaced by new duties on 'made-wine' which apply to both UK and imported wines other than wines of fresh grapes. The EEC obligation in respect of the fiscal element in the customs revenue duties on tobacco allows the UK until 1 January 1978 to convert these to excise duties. While no change was made in the year under report, a first step was taken in the April 1976 budget with the introduction of excise duties on all tobacco products other than snuff and a reduction in the revenue duty on imported manufactured and unmanufactured tobacco.

Net receipts from hydrocarbon oil duty fell by 0.5 per cent from £1,549.1 million to £1,541.9 million; this represents 16.7 per cent of the total Customs and Excise receipts. The fall was mainly due to lower consumption by industry, particularly the electricity generating industry, of rebatable oils with consumption down 12.6 per cent on 1974-75. Consumption of petrol was very slightly up on 1974-75 and that of derv was up by 2.4 per cent.

Consumption of tobacco fell by 7.5 per cent compared with 1974-75 but, as the rate of duty was increased in April 1975, duty

receipts rose to £1,679.3 million as compared with £1,339.5 million in the previous year, an increase of 25.4 per cent. The duty on tobacco represents 18.1 per cent of the total Customs and Excise revenue.

The net yield from duties on alcoholic drinks increased to £1,563.0 million compared with £1,134.3 million the previous year. Receipts from alcoholic drinks represent 16.9 per cent of the total net receipts.

Receipts of duty on spirits rose by 26.1 per cent from £544.8 million in 1974-75 to £699.4 million in 1975-76. Consumption fell by 1 per cent from 32.4 million proof gallons in 1974-75 to 32.1 million proof gallons in 1975-76. Exports of whisky were 90.6 million proof gallons, 1.1 per cent up on the previous year's figure of 89.6 million proof gallons.

Beer consumption rose by 0.8 per cent to 39.4 million bulk barrels. Duty receipts of £652.4 million were 44.8 per cent higher than the previous year's receipts of £450.7 million, reflecting the April 1975 budget increase. The average gravity of beer brewed in the United Kingdom rose from 1,037.18 in 1974-75 to 1,037.39.

Revenue receipts on wine rose by 71.8 per cent from £105.7 million in 1974-75 to £181.6 million in 1975-76. Quantities cleared to home use rose by 0.9 per cent from 62.6 million gallons in 1974-75 to 63.2 million gallons in 1975-76.

Receipts of duty on British wine and made-wine rose by 27.6 per cent from £23.2 million in 1974-75 to £29.6 million in 1975-76. Consumption fell by 30.7 per cent from 16.8 million gallons in 1974-75 to 11.6 million gallons in 1975-76.

The betting and gaming duties together yielded £265.0 million, an increase of 11.1 per cent on the 1974-75 figure of £238.5 million.

Consumption of home-produced and imported matches fell by 10 per cent and 7.4 per cent respectively. Overall consumption fell by 8.9 per cent and receipts fell from £6.4 million to £5.9 million. The total number of mechanical lighters charged with duty increased from 9.3 million in 1974-75 to 9.7 million. Receipts increased from £2.24 million to £2.26 million.

Protective duties

There was a marked deceleration during the year in the growth of the value of total imports, the increase in 1975-76 being 6.1 per cent compared with 33.9 per cent in 1974-75. The increase of only 2.5 per cent in the receipts of protective duties, from £501.0 million in 1974-75 to £513.3 million in 1975-76, reflected tariff changes consequent upon the continuing alignment of the UK tariff with the common customs tariff of the EEC and further reductions in the duties against imports from the EEC.

Shipbuilders' relief

In 1975-76 payment of shipbuilders' relief totalled £6.2 million. Of this, about £0.9 million was paid by the Department of the Environment.

EEC agricultural levies

Net receipts were £45.2 million. The increase of £20 million over the net receipts for last year was largely due to a reduction in world agricultural prices relative to community prices.

Control of passenger traffic

Following the check in 1974-75 passenger traffic resumed the upward trend in 1975-76. Some 25 million passengers arrived from abroad by sea and air compared with 23 million the previous year.

Civil litigation

In the 1975-76 financial year 2,061 actions to recover unpaid or disputed duties and taxes were commenced in the High Court and the county courts; 173 bankruptcy petitions and 122 winding-up petitions were presented. Over £1.8 million of duty and tax was recovered of which over £1.5 million related to VAT.

Value Added Tax tribunals

There were 364 appeals lodged with Value Added Tax Tribunals of which 216 were withdrawn by the appellants before a hearing. Of the 135 cases heard 67 were decided in favour of the commissioners, 15 in favour of the appellants and 53 were adjourned. Of the four appeals heard by the divisional court, two of which were lodged by the commissioners, one tribunal decision was reversed in favour of the commissioners, one appeal by the commissioners was dismissed and two were upheld in favour of the commissioners.

VAT offences

Action on offences relating to VAT increased. Tax arrears amounting to £966,337 were involved in the offences dealt with. For evasion of tax 44 prosecutions were completed and convictions obtained in all cases. At the end of the year a further 48 cases awaited hearing in the courts. There were 1,426 prosecutions against traders for persistently failing to make VAT returns. All the prosecutions were successful and fines totalling £272,000 were imposed by the courts.

Smuggling

Substantial increases in the duties have provided additional incentives for the smuggling of spirits and tobacco and detections of illegal importations of these products are increasing. In one case over 900 bottles of brandy (duty and tax involved £3,117) were found concealed in a consignment of machinery on a vehicle. Following a seizure of over 250,000 cigars inquiries revealed that about 1½ million had previously been smuggled in car transporters and trucks. As a result five persons received sentences of imprisonment or suspended sentences and a sixth forfeited bail of £21,000. A number of foreign nationals have been detected attempting to evade the duty on jewellery and other valuables imported into the United Kingdom.

Undervaluation

Arrears of duty, purchase tax and VAT totalling £962,000 were recovered during the year in respect of imports where values had been under-declared.

Currency smuggling

The decline in the rate of exchange for sterling and the high level of the investment currency premium resulted in an increase of attempts by organisations and individuals to smuggle money out of the United Kingdom for investment, property purchase and deposit in foreign bank accounts. Detections amounted to £2½ million, £1 million of which was seized and the balance restored for retention within the United Kingdom. Fifty-one persons were prosecuted resulting in six prison sentences and fines of £145,000.

A car fragmentiser capable of chewing up about 300 old bangers every day is being built in Bradford. McIntyre of Nottingham is spending £750,000 developing a six-acre site off Planetrees Road, Bradford, and the photograph shows the £500,000 150-ton giant 2,000 hp Auto-Shredder being constructed with the aid of a 112-ton crane. The giant will pour fist-sized pieces of re-cyclable ferrous metal into rail wagons: British Rail is providing a £20,000 siding and spur line. The depot, due to open in March 1977, will produce more than 1,000 tons of scrap a week for steelworks.

New appointment at OFT

Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, has announced the appointment of Neil Burton as director of the Restrictive Trade Practices Division at the Office of Fair Trading with the rank of under-secretary.

He takes over from Philip Harris who retires after 10 years of work on restrictive practices, first as principal assistant registrar in the Office of the Registrar of Restrictive Trading Agreements (1966-73) and then as Director of Restrictive Trade Practices (1973-76).

Undertakings following Monopolies Commission report on primary batteries

Undertakings have been given by Mallory Batteries Ltd and Ever Ready (Holdings) Ltd which implement the recommendation and several of the suggestions made by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in their report on the supply of primary batteries.

John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, told the House of Commons on 21 December that as a result of the undertakings given by Mallory Batteries, purchasers of photographic batteries supplied by the company have, since 1 October 1976, paid approximately 28 per cent less than they would otherwise have had to pay.

Replying to a parliamentary question from Ioan Evans (Aberdare), Mr Fraser said:

'As a result of the consultations which the Director General of Fair Trading, at my predecessor's request, held with Mallory Batteries Ltd and Ever Ready (Holdings) Ltd, both companies have given undertakings which I consider are sufficient to remedy and prevent the adverse effects specified in the report in relation to Mallory Batteries and satisfy the commission's suggestion that Ever Ready and Mallory should submit information to the director general at regular intervals to enable their profits and price and discount structure to be kept under review.

'Mallory agreed, following discussion with the director general to forego two increases, justifiable under the Price Code, of about 16 per cent and 19 per cent in the prices of their photographic batteries. Mallory has now undertaken not to increase the prices of its PX1, RM401R, PX640, PX625, PX675, PX400, PX23, 7H34 and PX14 types of photographic batteries in future except to the extent necessary to cover increases in the cost of producing and supplying these photographic batteries incurred after 1 July 1976. Mallory will, of course, continue to be bound by any statutory price controls. In addition Mallory has undertaken not to increase the prices of any of its other batteries in order to recover increases incurred before 1 July 1976 in the cost of producing and supplying the photographic batteries I have mentioned. In order that Mallory's trading activities can be kept under review, the company has also undertaken to supply the Director General of Fair Trading with (i) an annual statement of its profits, prices and discounts in respect of sales of mercury batteries and (ii) as and when any increase in the price of its photographic batteries is made, a statement describing the increase together with details of the increases in the costs of production and supply.

'Although the commission did not criticise Ever Ready's prices, they thought that the company's trading activities should also be kept under review. As a result of the director general's consultations, Ever Ready has undertaken to supply him with an annual statement of its profits, prices and discounts in respect of zinc carbon and mercury batteries supplied by the company.

'The director general will be keeping under review the carrying out of the undertakings, copies of which will be placed in the library.

'Following discussion with the director general, Ever Ready is now printing considerably more information, both on the cartons and on the batteries themselves, on the uses for which the batteries are most suited. For example, HP2 and HP11 type batteries and their cartons are now printed: "for cassette recorders, shavers, toys, gas ignition, heavy duty lighting and other high power uses". This is in accordance with the commission's suggestion that more guidance should be given to the public on the correct applications for particular zinc carbon batteries. Ever Ready has said that it will continue to consider what further steps might be taken.

'The commission also suggested that both companies should introduce a "use before" datemark on both zinc carbon and mercury batteries. It has become clear from the director general's lengthy discussions with the companies and independent authorities that the datemarking of primary batteries raises several serious technical difficulties. The introduction of the practice would entail heavy capital outlay for the manufacturers which eventually would have to be borne by consumers. I am satisfied that the companies' own internal stock control and distribution systems ensure that there is very little likelihood of a user being sold a "stale" battery and I have therefore decided that the commission's suggestion on this matter should not be pursued further at this time.'

Notes

The reference on the supply of primary batteries was made on 1 March 1972 under section 2(1) of the Monopolies and Restrictive Practices (Inquiry and Control) Act 1948 as amended by the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1956, and the Monopolies and Mergers Act 1965. The transitional provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973 enable the report to be dealt with under that act.

The report was published on 7 November 1974. The commission found that monopoly conditions, as defined in the legislation in force when the reference was made, prevailed in the supply in the United Kingdom of zinc carbon batteries and mercury batteries because Ever Ready supplied more than one-third of all zinc carbon batteries and Mallory supplied more than one-third of all mercury batteries.

The commission did not consider Mallory's monopoly position to be against the public interest. They did, however, conclude that the level of prices charged by Mallory on its sales of photographic batteries (which accounted for about 11 per cent by value of the company's UK sales of mercury batteries in 1973) resulted in excessive profits and thus operated against the public interest. They recommended that Mallory be required to make significant reductions in the prices of its photographic batteries, the amount of the reduction and the particular photographic batteries to which the reductions should apply to be decided by the Director General of Fair Trading after consultation

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with Mallory. The effect of the undertakings now given by the company is that apart from the price of almost all its photographic batteries having been frozen since the commission's report was published (an effective reduction vis a vis the company's other mercury batteries of 28 per cent), the company will not at any time in the future be allowed to recover increases in the cost of manufacturing and supplying these batteries incurred before 1 July 1976. The commission thought that there was a risk of its profits being excessive in the future and that it was possible that, some time in the future, there might be a case for a further reference. They therefore suggested that Mallory's profits and pricing and discount policies should be kept under review and the company should be invited to provide the director general with the necessary information annually or from time to time.

The commission decided that neither Ever Ready's monopoly position nor any of its practices were against the public interest, and made no formal recommendation concerning the company. However, while the commission did not feel that the company had abused its market power, they considered that the possibility of abuse existed and that there might be a case for a further reference in the future. They therefore suggested as with Mallory, that Ever Ready's profits and pricing and discount policies should be kept under review by the Director General of Fair Trading. The commission also felt that there was substantial ignorance on the part of the public of the appropriate uses for Ever Ready's HP zinc carbon batteries and suggested that the company should consider means of rectifying this.

The commission also suggested that both companies should introduce 'use-before' datemarks on their zinc carbon and mercury photographic batteries.

School uniform prices to be investigated

Prices and profits on school uniforms are being referred to the Price Commission, announced Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, on 22 December.

Replying to a parliamentary question from Michael Ward (Peterborough) Mr Hattersley said:

'I am asking the Price Commission to examine and report on prices of and margins on prescribed school clothing other than footwear, underwear and sportswear, including the effect of production in small quantities and distribution through nominated retailers.

'Many schools prescribe the clothing which their pupils are to wear and I know of parents' concern over the cost involved, both for standard garments and for items of clothing particular to individual schools. I am asking the Price Commission to look at prices and profits at all levels from manufacture to retail sale. As I have made clear, the making of a reference does not imply that there is anything wrong.'

There is still 'a prodigious waste of fuel' in almost every industrial process, according to Mr A. C. Brown (left) chairman of Spirax-Sarco Engineering. Mr Brown was speaking during a recent visit to the company by Dr J. A. Cunningham (centre) Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Energy. Spirax has co-operated with the government of the day on energy conservation ever since the last war and Dr Cunningham paid tribute to the company's record. 'Fuel will never be cheap again,' said the minister, who pointed out that even the resources of the North Sea are finite. The department and Spirax must continue to work together to persuade industry to save the country's fuel - and its own financial resources. The picture was taken at one of Spirax's two Cheltenham factories and includes Mr A. E. Stevens, the company's production director.

Maximum heating levels for buildings still in force

The maximum temperature to which any premises, except living accommodation, may be heated is 68 deg F (20 deg C), Dr John Cunningham, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy, said on 22 December.

Dr Cunningham was replying to a parliamentary question from Ian Campbell (West Dunbartonshire) who asked whether there were still statutory restrictions on the maximum heating level in buildings and, if so, what these restrictions were.

Dr Cunningham said:

'The maximum temperature to which any premises, other than living accommodation, may be heated is 68 deg F (20 deg C). This limit is set by the Fuel and Electricity (Heating) (Control) Order 1974, SI 1974 No. 2160, which is preserved by the Energy Act 1976.

'Certain exemptions are set out in the order. The limit can, for instance, be exceeded if necessary for the health or well-being of any person on those premises who is disabled, infirm, pregnant, under the age of five years, or over the age of 60 years.'

Shell and Esso agree principles of majority state participation

The following is the text of a pursuant answer given by Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, in the House of Commons today:

'The British National Oil Corporation, Shell UK Ltd, Esso Petroleum Co Ltd and I have today reached understandings on the principles of the arrangements to be concluded to give effect to the government's policy of securing majority state participation in commercial oilfields discovered under existing licences. It is the intention that memoranda of principles will be signed on 5 January 1977, when further details will be made publicly available.'

Participation agreements have already been made with Gulf, Conoco, Tricentrol and Ranger. A memoranda of principles has been agreed with BP; Heads of Agreement have been reached with the Occidental Group and the Union North Sea Group; and a memorandum of understanding has been signed with Chevron Petroleum Ltd and Santa Fe (UK) Ltd.

Coke works £9m expansion

A new £9 million battery of coke ovens and back-up plant will double the size of a

National Coal Board coke works in the north east and help to increase exports to Sweden.

The project, at Monkton Coke Works, near Jarrow, Tyne and Wear, operated by National Smokeless Fuels Ltd, an NCB Coal Products Group company, will increase coke output from 200,000 tons a year now to 400,000 tons when commissioned in 1979. Monkton Works provides 270 jobs and, with some additional recruitment, will ensure continuing employment for more than 300 cokeworkers.

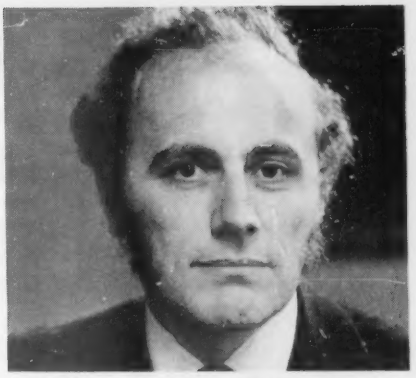
'The enlarged Monkton Works will supply 300,000 tons of a special grade of blast furnace coke a year – worth £17 million – to a consortium of five Swedish iron and steelworks.

Changes in the Price Commission

The new deputy chairman of the Price Commission is Professor Douglas Chalmers Hague. Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, and John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, have appointed Professor Hague to serve from 1 January 1977 when the term of office of the present deputy chairman, Kenneth Noble, came to an end. Mr Noble has accepted the invitation of the secretary of state and the minister to continue to serve on the commission as a part-time member.

Professor Hague is Professor of Managerial Economics at the Manchester Business School and a director of the Laird Group. He has been consultant to the National Economic Development Council and a member of the Economic Development Committee for Paper and Board and was a part-time member of the North Western Gas Board.

The appointment is also announced of Ian Frederic Hay Davison, managing partner of Arthur Andersen and Company, to be an additional part-time member of the Price Commission. Mr Davison will take up his appointment on 1 February.



Keith Grant has been appointed to succeed Sir Paul Reilly as director of the Design Council when Sir Paul retires next year. Mr Grant, 42, is secretary of the Royal Society of Arts and he is also secretary to the faculty of royal designers for industry.

Pilkington and UK Optical merger – commission given more time

An extension of time has been allowed for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to report on the proposed acquisition by Pilkington Brothers Ltd of UK Optical and Industrial Holdings Ltd. Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has agreed to the reporting period being extended to 31 January following representations from the Commission that there were special reasons why the report could not be made by 3 January, as specified in the reference.

Clearance of merger proposals

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided, on the information at present before him, not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

Trust Houses Forte Ltd/certain hotel interests of J. Lyons and Co Ltd

London and Scottish Marine Oil Co Ltd/Scottish Canadian Oil and Transportation Co Ltd.

Johnson and Firth Brown Ltd and Dunford and Elliot Ltd.

Government sales

Ministry of Defence

Sales by auction

15 January 1977 – Furniture

Location
Roman Way Camp, Berechurch Road, Colchester, Essex

Auctioneers
Fenn Wright Garrod Turner (Dept L), 146 High Street, Colchester, Essex (tel. 0206-46161)

A small sale of approximately 400 lots of household furniture and effects which will be sold as single items or in small quantities.

17, 18 January 1977 – Miscellaneous Stores

Location
Great Danes Hotel, Ashford Road, Hollingbourne, Maidstone, Kent

Auctioneers
Fuller Horsey Sons and Cassell (Dept L), 52 Bow Lane, London EC4M 9ET (tel. 01-248 7954)

Watches and clocks, telescopes and binoculars, microscopes, photographic equipment, domestic appliances, household and office furniture, vehicles and trailers, clothing and textiles, machine and hand tools, micrometers, paint and a large quantity of other miscellaneous stores.

25, 26 January 1977 – Miscellaneous Stores

Location
Central Ordnance Depot RAOC, Bicester, Oxon

Auctioneers
Midland Marts Ltd (Dept L), 4 Market Hill, Bicester, Oxon OX6 7AL (tel. 08692-2073)

Stores lying at COD Bicester and other depots and comprising clothing and textiles including 10,000 khaki greatcoats, 67,000 pairs footless stockings, battledress, raincoats, blankets, carpets, tentage, haversacks, webbing, groundsheets, chairs, tables, bureaux, wardrobes and other furniture, 1,200 wristwatches, photographic, electrical and kitchen equipment, fabric tank assemblies, tyres, MT spares, hand tools, engineer equipment, machine tools, forklift trucks, Bedford RL cargo truck and a large quantity of other miscellaneous items.

Catalogues which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc, are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 20p, postage and packing 10p extra (postal orders only).

TRADE ASSOCIATIONS ARE THERE TOO MANY?

by Jennifer Clarke

Towards the end of the 1960s the CBI evidently thought there might be an absence of pattern about trade associations and a certain illogicality about the way they were organised. It was not so much their total number which raised doubts as the fact that many of them seemed to be operating in complete isolation.

The CBI clearly had an interest in seeing this pattern simplified and together with the Association of British Chambers of Commerce sponsored the independent Commission of Inquiry into Industrial and Commercial Representation in December 1970, with Lord Devlin as chairman. This commission hoped incidentally to produce a register of all trade associations and employers' organisations but when it finally reported in November 1972 it had not been possible to complete such an ambitious undertaking.

As the report pointed out, the picture in the UK contrasted strongly with that in other EEC countries, where associations were knitted into a more orderly and logical pattern – a three-tier structure with the central, all-industry, organisation at the top, the separate industry organisations (usually limited in number) in the second tier and their various product groups as the third tier. In France, Germany, Holland, Italy, for example, the integrated systems presenting comparatively coherent patterns made communications easier between associations. The report commented that 'untidiness frequently plays a large part in ineffectiveness and that it does to an uncommon degree run all through our present EO (Employers' Organisation) and TA (Trade Association) structure.'

In a logically designed scheme, according to the commission there would be a single association, unitary or federal, for each industry with branches or constituents, to represent separate products manufactured or other specialised activities. The report considered that 'this was broadly the pattern adopted in every European country we have visited.' In Britain, by contrast 'the pattern exists but it is not universal; in some sectors it is clear and distinct, and in others barely discernible'. It was not simply a question of duplication, but rather of proliferation.

Nonetheless the commission decided not to produce a 'blue-print': rather it set out the principles on which it hoped a more rational system could be evolved and urged businessmen to consider their present arrangements in the light of the analysis and recommendations in the report.

Advice centre

With this in mind the commission recommended that the CBI and the ABCC should jointly sponsor, but not control, 'a centre of advice serving as a clearing house of current information on developments in the whole field of representational organisation with comparisons of different organisational structures – and case histories of successful examples of rationalisation,' and adding 'there may well be cases in which it can usefully take some initiative in promoting consultations.'

With the proposed sponsorship, the centre was started in March 1974, using the residue of the money collected in the fund raised for the Devlin commission. Its principal was T. C. Fraser who had been the director of the commission. In July 1975, after this trial period, Lord Netherthorpe, who had been a member of the commission, accepted the joint invitation of the presidents of the CBI and the ABCC to become chairman of, and to form a board for, the centre. The residue of the Devlin fund having by then been expended, Lord Netherthorpe raised some £18,000 from 90 companies in voluntary subscriptions, a measure of the considerable interest shown.

In June 1976, Gordon Bridge, a member of the centre's board, held a meeting of the presidents or chairmen and the directors of nine 'umbrella' organisations for an exchange of views and experiences. Those attending considered it very useful, while the centre acquired considerable information about the methods adopted in promoting such developments and about some of the problems encountered.

A significant development in recent years has been the emergence of a number of these 'umbrella' councils or consortia representing the common interests of large sectors of industry or commerce and bringing together numerous substantial associations to concert their policies and actions. Now the retail trade, the food and drink and the textile

industries all have their 'super-sector' organisations, to handle negotiations with government or the authorities in Brussels. Lord Robens has established the Engineering Industries Council with the presidents of nine major representative bodies and the chairmen of a dozen or so major companies in the industry. The British Agricultural Council brings together 19 organisations representing the interests of farming and the producer marketing of farm products.

The structure described by Lord Devlin is now becoming a reality not only through the development of these 'umbrella' bodies, covering very large sections but also through an increasing number of associations becoming affiliated to their leading sector federation (such as the Chemical Industries Association of which Mr Bridge was formerly president), some covering very large sectors.

There are some who seek to underrate the significance of the 'umbrella' bodies claiming that a multi-tier organisation tends to produce a 'consensus of consensuses'. But the fact remains that the affiliated associations do keep some autonomy. As Lord Devlin said.

'We do not see any form of combination envisaged in this report as involving the loss of essential independence. The main object of every combination, looked at from its representational aspect, is to provide a forum for discussion together with men at the top who have the ability to produce agreement if it is to be found and thereafter to express it. But the agreement is not the sine qua non. If a single view emerges, it will be a great gain. If it does not, the separate views will be the clearer because it will be known exactly where they differ and that they differ only after taking each other into account. The only sacrifice of independence, if sacrifice it be, is the requirement that no member of the combination should form its views in isolation, that each should pay regard to the views of the others and to the strength to be derived from consensus and that each should dissent only when convinced that its separate interests so demand.'

Here the main emphasis seems to be on the need for properly formalised arrangements for regular communication and consultation between associations in the same sector, leading to concerted representations where these can be achieved, rather than to the refinements of constitutional change.

Shortly before the centre was formally set up in 1974, Tom Fraser and Reg Stuart, who comprise its part time staff, were asked to act as independent chairman and secretary respectively of a joint investigation committee which had been established, with a view to planning a merger, by four separate associations: the Electrical Contractors' Association, the Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland, the Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association, and the National Association of Plumbing Heating and Mechanical Services Contractors. Discussions continued until the summer of 1975 but were then suspended on the withdrawal of the last named association. Since then, however, practical steps have been taken by the other three organisations, not only to agree on closer working arrangements, but also with a continued view to eventual merger. On 1 April 1976 the ECA and the HVCA established their headquarters in commonly owned premises with the ECA of Scotland holding a financial interest in the ownership.

In the autumn of 1975, the staff of the centre was asked by Lord Robens for advice in connection with his establishment of the Engineering Industries Council and in particular on its link with the major engineering employers' organisation and trade associations. Tom Fraser kept the record of council meetings and through his membership of the Engineering Industries Liaison Committee (comprising the directors of 14 major engineering associations) served as a link between the council and the committee until a more formal relationship between them was established.

Other organisations have consulted the centre regarding plans which they had already begun to formulate for some restructuring. Notable amongst these have been those responsible for the concept of the Confederation of British Road Passenger Transport which has now brought together the Passenger Vehicle Operators Association Ltd., the Public Road Transport Association and the Scottish Road Passenger Transport Association (see illustration below).

Similarly, the Compound Animal Feeding Stuffs Manufacturers' National Association Ltd, and British Association of Grain, Seed, Feed and Agricultural Merchants Ltd, turned to the centre when first considering moves towards the merger which they now aim to complete in April 1977.

Towards a better system

At any one time, it is probable that in the United Kingdom about a dozen discussions will be in progress between two or more organisations about merging or establishing other forms of closer relationship. In times of financial stringency this trend accelerates as companies look at their commitments and related subscription rates. At the present time, the burden of coping with both Whitehall and Brussels encourages them to close ranks and to concentrate staff resources. In the last two years the centre, gathering information from various sources, records that some 140 associations have ceased independent existence, either by closing down or by being absorbed. In addition, many others have become affiliates of larger federations.

Guide to EOs and TAs

A major task of the centre has been the preparation of a Guide to Employers' Organisations and Trade Associations. This fulfils an original aim of the Devlin commission. The guide has recently been issued. It lists EOs and TAs by the orders of the standard industrial classification and shows constitutional links as far as these are known, as well as cases of shared premises and shared secretaries. It reveals the multiplicity of organisations and the varying degrees of integration or fragmentation in different industries and trades.

Some 1,850 different associations are named of which some 1,150 apparently have no constitutional links with any other. From questionnaires sent to the latter, replies to which were by no means comprehensive, it is known that at least 350 of them operate on very slender resources of finance and staff.

The guide does not include addresses, or details of officials or size of memberships. This information can in most cases, be found in the 'Directory of British Associations' (published by CBD Research Ltd, of Beckenham). This lists, in alphabetical order, associations of nearly every kind with a subject index but not segregating the industrial and commercial from those with other interests and without analysing them in sectors nor tracing links in detail. The 'Directory of Employers' Associations, ... etc.', issued by the Department of Employment gives details of employers' organisations indicating affiliations, but does not include trade associations. It is, of course, not concerned with the latter and consequently does not indicate those organisations listed which happen to cover both functions.

Copies of the 'The Sectoral Representation of British Industry and Commerce; A Guide to Employers Organisations and Trade Associations in the United Kingdom and links between them', price £1.70 (post free), may be obtained from: The Advice Centre on the Organisation of Industrial and Commrecial Representation, 21 Tothill St, London SW1 9LP. Lists relating to individual SIC orders are also available at 15p for each order, plus postage. Copies of the report of the Devlin commission are still available from the same address, price £1.79 (post free).

Home exhibitions

HMSO's work on show at The Design Centre

An exhibition at The Design Centre, London, from 12 January to 5 February 1977, will illustrate the enormous variety of activities in which HMSO is involved from the highly technological production of telephone directories to the traditional skills of book-binding and book restoration.

HMSO will show that good design is essentially practical and purposeful, relevant to such everyday activities as using a telephone directory or collecting pensions, and important in the processes and equipment of manufacture as well as in the end product.

Five sections will deal with different aspects of HMSO's work in relation to parliament; dissemination of information; the citizen; the office; the arts. Fine art reproduction, for museums and art galleries, specialised booklets and manuals, the publication of Acts of Parliament, designing luggage, printing cheque books and passports, even making rag dolls, all come under HMSO.

Also of interest will be the equipment that HMSO uses to test ball point pens, typewriters and other office paraphernalia.

Award winners will be at Pakex 77

A display of packages that win awards in the 1977 Starpacks competition and a new book on packaging will be featured on the Institute of Packaging's stand at Pakex '77, the International Packaging Exhibition, to be held at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from 14 to 18 March 1977.

All the packs entered for the competition will be on show in London for three days at the beginning of March. Those awarded gold, silver or bronze stars will be selected for the Birmingham display. The book will be 'The Packaging Media' designed as a textbook and encyclopedia for students and an illustrated reference work.

New cartoning equipment for large and small users, an alternative to aerosol packaging, prototype boxes for fruit and high-speed machinery for multipackaging cans will also be among the exhibits.

The Institute of Packaging are also organising a series of half-day discussion sessions – called Packaging Pacemakers – at the NEC during the exhibition. Commentaries provided by authoritative speakers contributing to the series will help visitors pinpoint new and significant developments among the exhibits.

The International Packaging Exhibition is sponsored by the Institute of Packaging, The European Packaging Federation, COCEMA and supported by the Process Plant Association (Packaging Machinery Section) and is organised by Industrial and Trade Fairs Ltd.

Engineers show their skills

The Engineering Industries Association (EIA), in an effort to show overseas manufacturers what British firms can offer in sub-contracting goods and services, is organising an exhibition at the Royal Showground, Norwich from 12 to 14 May 1977.

The association's Anglex '77, is expected to attract in the region of 120 engineering and allied companies. It will provide an extensive covered area, a sub-contractor's section and outdoor space for big exhibits.

In Britain, sub-contracting has become an industry in its own right. Among its 4,300 members, EIA includes about 1,000 sub-contractors. It is from a background of service to UK industry that those firms are looking increasingly for overseas business in Europe and beyond.

Anglex '77 is by way of EIA's tribute to Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee. Its theme, aptly chosen in Export Year, is 'It pays to buy and sub-contract in Britain today'.

The exhibition is open to all engineering companies, whether members of the Association or not.

Further information from: W. E. Clayfield, EIA, Equitable House, Lyon Road, Harrow HA1 2HG, tel 01-863 9188.

Space bookings doing well

Space is rapidly being taken for both the Scottish and Blackpool Gifts Fairs, both of which follow the International Spring Fair and will undoubtedly attract many visitors from the UK and overseas who wish to take in all three events.

The Scottish Gifts Fair, from 13 to 17 February, is at the Kelvin Halls, Glasgow. The organisers, Trade Promotion Services Ltd, are finding that exhibitors are taking much larger exhibition areas than before and for the first time the Wedgwood Group will be taking part.

The Blackpool Gifts Fair is from 20 to 24 February and will occupy four sections of Blackpool's Winter Gardens exhibition complex. Again a large attendance of buyers is expected.

Specialist audio communications

The audio visual communications exhibition, AV at Work, is moving to the new Wembley Conference Centre, London, for the 1977 show. It will be held in the first floor exhibition area from 19 to 21 April.

The exhibition is concerned with more effective communication – in sales and marketing, training and education – and the product mix in display will represent both hardware and programming sectors of the fast-growing a-v business.

Exhibitions in brief

Watch Fair: Scotland will again have its own Watch and Jewellery Trade Fair in Glasgow this year from 18 to 21 September.

First held in September, 1976, the event was an immediate success. It brought together for the first time in one venue the major suppliers of watches, clocks, jewellery, gold and silverware, diamonds and gemstones in an exhibition for retail buyers.

The presenter is the monthly publication, *Watchmaker, Jeweller & Silversmith.* Organisers are Iliffe Promotions Ltd, of Dorset House, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LU, tel 01-261 8000.

Joint venture: With the closing of Offshore International '76, Industrial and Trade Fairs Ltd are already assisting in the planning of a new-style exhibition to take place at Earls Court, London from 24 to 27 October, 1978. This is a joint venture of the USA's Society of Petroleum Engineers, organisers of the annual Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) at Houston, and the UK's Institute of Petroleum, with the sponsorship of the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

Signposting £23m: Bribond Signs, Burgess Hill, Sussex, has been commissioned to carry out a comprehensive signing programme for the £23m Wembley Stadium complex, a report on which appeared in *Trade and Industry*, 10 December 1976. The contract includes erection of all signs for directing vehicles to parking bays and pedestrians to the variety of buildings. There are 30 different sizes and types of signs being installed some with specially fitted sliding panels so changes can be made, depending on the type of event.

New products

'Breakthrough' in metal cutting technology

BOC Ltd, report that a hot machining system for removing metal, designed and manufactured by HoMach Systems, Swindon, Wilts – part of BOC Ltd – has reduced cutting times by a factor of six at the Swindon plant of Deloro Stellite (UK) Ltd. The system has been installed on a production vertical boring mill.

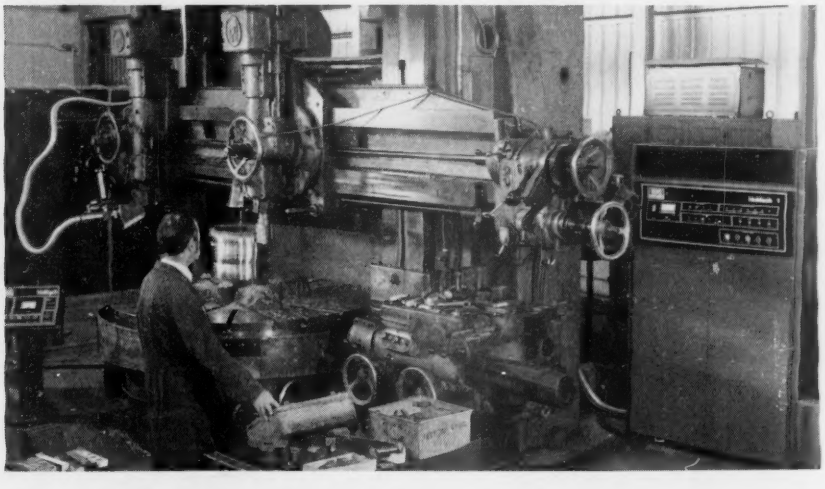
BOC says that the HoMach system represents 'a significant breakthrough – on a commercial basis – in metal cutting technology, particularly where difficult-to-machine materials such as high speed steels, cobalt and nickel alloys are encountered'. The tougher and harder the material the greater the benefits available.

HoMach's process is based on the principle of controlled metal softening in the region just ahead of the cutting tool. Intense localised heat is applied in such a way that immediate surface softening occurs. The heat source is closely followed by the cutting tool which has little difficulty cutting away the softened metal. The time lapse between heat application and cutting is controlled so that virtually no heat soaks into the component but is removed with the swarf.

The package is a specially designed high intensity heat source fed from a power/control console. The argon gas supply system and the d.c. power system controlled by logic circuitry are housed in the console. Several of the features are protected by HoMach patent rights.

The system is suitable for fitting to existing machine tools and for inclusion as an integral design feature in new machine tools.

A hot machining system for removing metal, designed and manufactured by HoMach Systems – part of BOC Ltd.



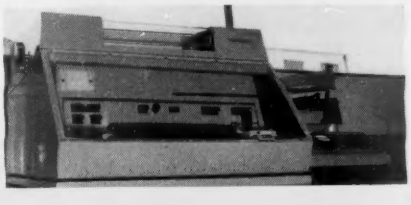
Cutting office noise

A teleprinter silencer cover for use with telecommunications equipment used by freighting companies has been developed by the Power Equipment Co, acoustic engineers of Kingsbury Works, London NW9.

Power Equipment says that without the cover teleprinters produce 70dB+ or roughly the same noise as a crowded shop. During tests this noise level was reduced to 58dB or roughly the same level as a conversation, heard from 6 ft away.

The cover can be used for desk and console mounted teleprinters and includes a platern handle which can be turned without raising the cover and a lectern suitable for left and right handed operators.

Teleprinter and PEC silencer cover.



Mini radio tracing probe

A miniature, flexible, radio transmitting probe for use in tracing drains, sewers or pipes down to as small as 50mm (2 in) diameter has been introduced by Electrolocation Ltd, Bristol, a Rotork company.

The new 'Flexiprobe' can be bought separately or as part of the company's new sub-surface electronic survey equipment, which includes instruments designed to locate, track and estimate the depth of most underground services.

Electrolocation's 'Flexiprobe' negotiates complex drainage bends.

The probe's development follows problems caused by the drought and an increasing need to separate foul water collection from storm water drains. In the former case, reduced flows through conservation measures are creating a high incidence of blockages, which need to be located quickly. In the latter, long term considerations of recycling storm water and the need to reduce peak flows through sewage treatment plants, unnecessarily swollen by surface water, requires many detailed local surveys to determine the number and location of connections.

To achieve the necessary compactness and flexibility of operation the probe comprises a transmitting aerial at the lead end of a 30m length of semi-rigid nylon hose; battery and control circuits are at the trailing – operating – end, thereby reducing the bulk that needs to enter the pipe or channel. The lead end is fitted with a wheeled nose-piece to assist passage.

Technology news

Government-supported R and D for garment and allied industries: an invitation to collaborate

by L. P. Bamford, chairman, Garment and Allied Industries Requirements Board

Public money for industrial research and development in the clothing, textile – excluding fibre making – leather and footwear industries, and those industries making the machinery which the others use, is allocated through the Garment and Allied Industries Requirements Board – GARB.

The board is the youngest of eight research and development requirements boards set up by the Department of Industry to promote and support nationally vital R and D.

GARB was formed in December 1975. Its establishment was by way of the beginning of a move towards the redistribution of the department's funds away from industries already technologically advanced to those 'technologically undernourished'.

The chairman of GARB, Leslie Bamford, a former director of Coats-Paton, in this article, outlines the board's role and method of operation. He emphasises above all its reliance on the garment and allied industries themselves for guidance and proposals in developing its R and D policy.

Following the acceptance of the Rothschild report on government funding of R and D, published in 1971, the traditional system of blanket support, channelled through the collaborative research associations, was replaced by a system based on a customer-contractor relationship, with the body carrying out the research as the contractor. This meant that the government would act as a 'proxy customer' for the industry which the research was intended to benefit, and would allocate its R and D funds only on the basis of a detailed evaluation of the cost of the project and the anticipated benefits. The aim was to improve selection and ensure that subsequent exploitation of the results would be more beneficial to the customer.

To apply the new approach to the sectors of industry for which it was responsible, the then Department of Trade and Industry (the responsible department is now the Department of Industry) set up several Research Requirements Boards to commission research on its behalf. In this set-up the collaborative RAs of the garment and allied industries were accommodated, with other 'miscellaneous' sectors, in a board chaired by the department's chief scientist.

Why GARB?

By the spring of 1975 it was becoming clear that the garment and allied industries were in serious economic difficulties, which, if not solved, were likely to have repercussions for the economy of the nation as a whole.

The industries we are talking about employ something like 15 to 16 per cent of the working population, and their products meet an essential demand which would otherwise have to be met by imports. Every 1 per cent by which they decline adds £40 to 50 million to the balance of payments deficit; and it doesn't take a mathematical genius to work out that a 50 per cent decline would not only leave a lot of people jobless, but also add the equivalent of the present oil deficit to our balance of payments account.

Though the introduction of new technology may not be the remedy in the short term, it was obvious that without it the sector was not going to survive in good health into the 1980s. And given this premise, it was equally obvious that, compared with other sectors, the industries were not being particularly well treated from the point of view of government support for R and D. Consequently, GARB was set up to cater for their special needs.

Like all the other requirements boards, GARB is a relatively small organisation. It has only 10 members: two 'official' members from the Department of Industry, and eight 'independent' members (one academic, one from the trade unions, the remainder from industry) who serve in a voluntary capacity. No one sits as the delegate of a federation or union or any other body: only as an individual particularly qualified by experience and achievement to contribute to the board's decisions. Each case is treated on its merits; and the board sanctions expenditure only when convinced that it is in the public interest to do so.

GARB is therefore basically an independent executive body with all the powers and responsibilities of expenditure associated with a company board.

Briefly, its remit is to support the R and D needed to make the industries under its wing competitive with their foreign rivals in terms of cost, quality and customer acceptability. Projects already being supported range from computer pattern grading and laser-beam cutting, to effluent assessment and the development of a sewing machine attachment. Obviously therefore it does not matter whether the R and D has to do with high- or low-level technology: the only criterion is the need to be met. But if the customer-contractor approach is to succeed, the systems or hardware derived from the projects supported have to be exploited. After all, industrial research is concerned not so much with pushing forward the frontiers of knowledge as with providing a means to an end; and there is no point in spending money on producing the means if the means is not used to achieve the end. This is why GARB seeks industrial participation in projects at the earliest possible stage, and why its policy is now being readjusted to give as much weight to development as to research. 'Technology transfer' is the jargon used to describe the attempts which are being made to bring means and end together.

Our invitation

GARB has so far met only five times, and to a certain extent it is still feeling its way. The object of the exercise being to promote research not stifle it, the board's first task has been to continue support for the projects which it has inherited, though the procedure by which R and D funds are channelled to the RAs is being modified with the aim of developing a real customer-contractor relationship.

The board's budget for 1976-77 (derived essentially from past history) is £1.27

million. It is not for me to predict what is going to happen to the level of public expenditure in the future, but on the evidence to date it seems that funds are not going to dry up so far as industrial aims are concerned. And whatever the total sum eventually allocated for R and D, it is implicit in the existence of GARB that a larger proportion than in the past will be made available for the garment and allied industries. However, the board's resources will certainly not be limited, and the board's members are not going to sanction expenditure on projects unless they consider that the projects will benefit both the industry and the country.

In other words, if worthwhile projects are not forthcoming, the money will not be spent.

My point is that GARB cannot possibly function effectively, if at all, unless it can rely on the garment and allied industries to feed in their views on the types of programme to be undertaken and the areas of research which would prove of greatest benefit. The board is therefore seeking its industries' co-operation in two sectors – one concerned with immediate tactics, the other with the broad strategy.

Board eager to hear

First, the board is eager to hear from any firm, research institute, other organisation or private individual with a specific R or D proposal to submit for support, whether it relates to textiles, textile products, clothing, footwear, leather, or the machinery or equipment involved in their manufacture.

Second, the board has an obligation to develop its own R and D strategy; and the logical outcome of the customer-contractor concept is that at some time in the future GARB will develop its own research programme and select the best contractors from the widest possible range.

Worthwhile research projects are, however, not developed easily: they emerge only from a background of wide-ranging, detailed and intimate knowledge of the field. GARB and its policies are still fledglings, and, though its members have a wealth of experience between them, they lay no claim to omniscience. Here again therefore the board is extremely dependent on the co-operation of the firms and individuals working in the field. Who should know the technological needs of an industry better than the industry itself?

I invite anyone in the garment and allied industries who has views on the present or potential needs of his particular sphere of activity or of his industry as a whole, or who has ideas for research or development which for some reason (for example, lack of resources) cannot be followed through, to get in touch with the board. As chairman of GARB, I can guarantee that every view, comment or proposal received will be given serious consideration, and that, if support is decided on, the board will ensure that some modus operandi is found to provide it.

In the first instance, please contact: Dr D. I. Packham, Department of Industry, Research Requirements Division, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN, tel 01-211 6380.

Rendering guidance from BRE

A new paper, produced by the Building Research Establishment, describes the different ways of rendering an outside wall, and how to choose the right rendering mix and type of finish.

A wall may be rendered to exclude rain or merely to improve its appearance. Generally a rendering should combine both functions, although their relative importance may vary. Resistance to rain penetration is likely to be the overriding requirement on a solid wall but on a wall of properly designed cavity construction with a durable external leaf, the applied finish need only be decorative. However, if the external leaf is of lightweight concrete, the rendering will also be required to keep this dry, in order to minimise heat loss and prevent risk of frost damage. Reduction of heat loss may even be the main functional requirement for special renderings containing lightweight aggregate instead of sand.

The choice of a rendering mix and type of finish must be determined by the required performance and appearance, by the characteristics of the background to which the rendering is to be applied and by the degree of exposure to wind, rain and atmospheric pollution. The new BRE digest which shows, with the aid of tabulated summaries, how these factors can be assessed and how a suitable specification can then be selected is now available. Copies of BRE digest 196, 'External rendered finishes', can now be purchased from HMSO, price 7p each (excluding postage).

The digest summarises the information and recommendations in British Standard Code of Practice BS 5262:1976 and gives some information on textured finishes based on organic media and on some recently developed renderings.

Oil-well survey instrument for deep water

Ferranti Offshore Systems Ltd is operating an instrument for surveying oil-wells in the sea bed.

Obtaining precise data for large diameter casing runs is, of importance when multiple production wells are being drilled from a platform, to avoid breaking through into previously drilled holes.

Known as the Ferranti Casing Surveyor, the unit was built in collaboration with Shell Exploration and Production (Aberdeen) to a specific operational requirement and is currently being used by Shell/Esso to survey the alignment of production wells from the Brent D platform in the North sea. In this particular case it is being lowered to depths of 900 ft (275m).

As it is lowered down the hole, it continuously records data, on a magnetic tape, of distance travelled and the direction and magnitude of corresponding lateral displacements. When recovered, the data from the tape is entered into a field analysis unit which calculates and prints out the angular alignment and lateral displacements of the casing at given depths relative to the known starting point.

The inertial sensing unit comprises a gyroscopically stabilised platform which is maintained in a fixed attitude in space regardless of changes in the orientation of the vehicle in which it is being carried. Three precision accelerometers are mounted on the stabilised platform with their axes aligned mutually at right angles to one another. These detect movements along any, or all, three axes and the output signals are integrated twice to derive displacements from the known starting datum.

The computer which performs these calculations is also programmed to control the complete operation of the instrument while it is being lowered and raised in the hole.

The Ferranti casing surveyor for measuring the alignment and position of oil-well casings in the sea bed down to considerable depths. In the background is the 'cake-rack' on which the precision inertial sensing equipment, power pack and recording unit are being assembled prior to being installed in the shell in the foreground.

Publications

Marine and shipping publications

The United Kingdom's traditional links with the sea are too well known to need further elaboration: as a source of food and as a defensive bulwark as well as an avenue of trade the surrounding waters have played a prominent role in the development of this island. A further dimension has recently been added to this relationship by the discovery and exploitation of oil and gas deposits located on the continental shelf. The government's regulation of Britain's complex maritime activities reflects this many-sided national interest, involving, as it does, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the Department of Trade. The range of official publications generated by these departments is consequently wide and varied: this short bibliographical note is primarily concerned with those publications which emanate from HMSO and Department of Trade; in particular its Marine Division, although where especially relevant other sources are noted.

A useful starting point for identifying a large number of these items is *Merchant Shipping: a guide to Government publications.* Department of Trade. (88 pages. Available from HMSO. 1975. £1.50 ISBN 0 11 511647 8.) It provides a key to those acts, statutory instruments and advisory publications, including Merchant Shipping Notices, for which the Department of Trade is responsible. To these have been added the other acts and statutory instruments dealing with shipping which have been listed as being in force in the *Chronological Table of Statutes 1235-1973* and the *Table of Government Orders showing orders in force up to December 1973.* Also cited are command papers covering official reports on shipping and international conventions. *Sectional List no. 3: Government Publications Trade, Industry, Energy, Prices and Consumer Protection* (available free from HMSO. 1976), contains a complete listing of all those Department of Trade publications published by and available from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. A new annual from the Central Statistical Office which has quickly established itself as an essential tool for any statistical inquiry is the *Guide to Official Statistics* (no. 1. 1976. HMSO). It contains numerous references to marine and shipping statistics, both official and non-official. Among those items containing relevant marine and shipping data the following are particularly worthy of note. The Central Statistical Office's *Monthly Digest of Statistics* (latest no. 371: November 1976. HMSO) incorporate a monthly analysis of UK registered ships of 500 gross tons and over, categorised into passenger and cargo liners, tramps, container vessels, bulk carriers and tanker vessels, and showing the numbers, gross and deadweight tonnages. As well as a run of some 15 monthly figures, the composition of the fleet at the end of the previous four years is also shown. The same data is cumulated for 10 years in the CSO's *Annual Abstract of Statistics* (latest 1976. HMSO).

Another annual publication which is central to the whole subject is OECD's review *Maritime Transport* (latest 1975. Available from HMSO). As well as regular features on international shipping developments, shipping services and freight markets, this publication features a special chapter each year on a selected topic. Recent examples include a 1974 article on *loss records on ships flying flags of convenience 1964-73*, and *an experimental survey on the roles of shipping in national economies,* which appeared in 1973. *Maritime Transport* also includes a regular statistical appendix. The data presented includes figures for the year of the journal's publication and consists of three main groups: tables for sea-borne trade divided by commodities; information on the world shipping fleet in terms of country and size of vessel; and cargo charter freight indices. Although no longer current, the data presented in the *Report of the Committeee of Inquiry into Shipping – the Rochdale Report* – (HMSO. 1970) covers a whole range of shipping statistics for both the UK and overseas maritime nations. The most recent information given in this report relates to the years 1967 to 1969 and the variety and depth of the data presented makes this a primary source for any analysis.

This magazine, *Trade and Industry,* is essential for keeping up to date with current marine developments, inasmuch as it includes articles of interest to those concerned with shipping and marine matters. An important example was published on 18 April 1975 entitled *Government responsibilities for maritime safety.* In this, John Archer, Under-Secretary Marine Division Department of Trade, examined the way in which government responsibilities for safety of life at sea are exercised. The author also presented an outline of the functions of the Department's Marine Division, together with an extended note on its general aims and its part in research and development. *Trade and Industry* also publishes an annual statistical breakdown of the nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade, the latest being in the issue for 9 July 1976. The investigatory work of the Marine Division is carried out under the powers conferred by the Merchant Shipping Acts from which emanate reports on particular incidents. An example of a formal inquiry, published by HMSO, is *m.f.v. Wyre Majestic (O.N. 187853) Report of Court no. S.498: Formal Investigation* (HMSO. 1975) which was convened as a result of an investigation into the total loss of the motor fishing vessel *Wyre Majestic* off Rubha a'Mhill. These investigations are held in order to establish the causes of accidents in the hope that the knowledge gained can be applied to safety at sea procedures and practices: they also have a disciplinary function. In the course of monitoring marine casualties, the Department of Trade's Marine Division prepares an annual compilation *Casualties to Vessels and Accidents to Men* (latest 1973-4. HMSO. 1976) in which appears statistics for UK registered vessels, showing losses of shipping and casualties among crew. A publication which reflects the more active side of safety at sea is dealt with in the Department of Trade's *United Kingdom Marine Search and Rescue Organisation* (HMSO. 1975). This sets out the various authorities and organisations involved in operating search and rescue tasks and describes their functions and responsibilities.

A less widely publicised but equally important aspect of the work of the Marine Division is reflected in the series of publications which comprise *instructions to surveyors.* These cover the procedures and rules to be adhered to by the department's surveyors when engaged on statutory survey duties. Two titles of interest in this series are *Survey of Fishing Vessels: Instructions for the Guidance of Surveyors* (HMSO. 1975) and *Survey of Fire Appliances: Instructions for the Guidance of Surveyors* (HMSO. 1974). A related publication is *Fees for Marine Surveys and other Marine Services* (HMSO. 1976). The last few years have witnessed a growth in ecological awareness which has focused attention on the responsibility of the world's maritime nations for preventing the pollution of the earth's oceans. The advent of large tankers, both chemical and oil, has increased the possible magnitude of disasters and the United Kingdom has itself experienced the hazards involved in the *Torrey Canyon* incident. This and much else besides is dealt with in the Department of Trade's *Manual on the Avoidance of Pollution of the Sea by Oil* (HMSO. 4th edition 1974). Specifically, this volume is concerned with the prevention of spillages, the disposal of oil residues, records and inspection procedures, and legal provisions and requirements. This item can be supplemented by a recently published report on the *Accidental Oil Pollution of the Sea* (HMSO. 1976). This has been compiled by a team led by the

Central Unit on Environmental Pollution whose brief covered pollution hazards and the adequacy of the organisations and resources available to respond in emergencies. One final item of interest in this selection of Stationery Office publications on marine matters is the *Official History of HM Coastguard: Coastguard!* (HMSO. 1976). This volume is the first authoritative account of that organisation which acts as the main UK coastwatch, and, although primarily designed for the general reader it is written in sufficient detail to be of use to the more historically minded. The prices of all the HMSO publications cited above are given in the relevant annual *Government Publications List*. The following publications can all be obtained from the Department of Trade's Marine Library, Sunley House, 90-93 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LP, unless otherwise stated. The publications published and distributed by the department itself relate to its function as outlined above. The most extensive series of items it produces consist of the *Merchant shipping notices*, popularly known as 'M' notices. These are information leaflets drafted and issued by the department in the further interests of marine safety. Although they have no binding legal power at present, the courts do take note of compliance with them in particular cases. The 'M' notices deal with safety equipment and procedures, navigation, medical matters, cargo, storage, examination regulations and manning requirements. They are all available free from the Marine Library, although a charge for handling is made for subscriptions. They are individually identified by a running number and a list of notices current up to 30 April 1976 (*Merchant Shipping Notice no. 762*) is available on request, as is also *'M' notice 785* which is a useful current list of the major statutory instruments in force on merchant shipping. One of many publications arising from the Department of Trade's responsibilities for qualifications in this field is the compilation of *Examinations for Certificates of Competency in the Merchant Navy: Statistics 1975*. (1975). This pamphlet includes data on candidates passes and failures for the Master and Mate certificates, together with statistics of the results of other competency tests.

The department also compiles and issues the *Seaway Code: a guide for small boat users* (2nd edition. 1976). This colourful and concise booklet is the complete guide to safety for the thousands who regularly 'go messing about in boats'. Profusely illustrated with charts, diagrams and reproductions of marine and navigational signs and signals, it covers such topics as competence and skill, choosing a boat, maintenance, equipment, weather and forecasting, rules of the sea, emergency drills, and insurance – as well as many other essential points for the small boat user. Another well illustrated brochure available direct from the departments' library and intended for the general public is *The Battle Against Oil Pollution at Sea* (2nd edition. 1976). It deals with all aspects of the problem and comprises a detailed text, charts, diagrams and relevant statistics, and is especially suited for educational needs. The practical side of pollution control can be further explored in the *Report by the Department of Trade on the Action taken to deal with the oil spilled as a result of the collision in the Dover Strait on 12 November 1975, between the M/T Olympic Alliance and HMS Achilles* (1976). This report describes the action taken in order to remedy the results of the spillage and also comments on the lessons learned and possible future action. An annex provides a detailed insight into the national anti-pollution organisation – its responsibilities, structure and staffing.

This short survey of marine publications is designed to give some idea of the variety of literature available from UK official sources – both from HMSO and the Department of Trade. However, the survey would not be complete without mentioning the extensive publishing activities of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (IMCO), which is the United Nations agency concerned with maritime affairs, Recent publications of this organisation include items on marine pollution, ship construction, navigation and cargoes. IMCO's *International Conference on Safety of Life at Sea*, 1974 (IMCO. 1975. £3.00) is an example of the important areas covered by this body. A full list of IMCO publications is available from IMCO Publications Section, 101-104 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AE, free on application.

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY LAW

The complete Encyclopedia, under the general editorship of Professor K. R. Simmonds, former director of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, provides an unrivalled reference work which offers an up-to-date collection of the legislation of the European Communities in an accessible, intelligible, well-organised and expertly annotated form. All the prices include supplementary service to the end of 1977.

Volume A – United Kingdom Sources (in one loose-leaf volume) includes the European Communities Act 1972 with up-to-date annotations and other relevant United Kingdom legislation. Twelve supplements since publication bring it up-to-date to September 1976.
Price: £25.00

Volume B – European Community Treaties (in two loose-leaf volumes) contains the official English texts, in fully up-to-date and amended form, of all the basic Community Treaties, with illuminating and expert annotations as well as the constituent and amending treaties concluded among the Member States of the Communities and between the Communities and non-Member States. The text of the Lomé Convention, with annotations, has recently been added. Ten supplements since publication bring it up-to-date to October 1976.
Price: £45.00

Volume C – Community Secondary Legislation (in five loose-leaf volumes) presents annotated and up-dated texts of the Regulations, Directives, Decisions, Recommendations, Opinions and Notices, arranged in chronological order under subject matter. Volume CII, containing Company Law, Competition, Economic and Financial Affairs and Budgetary Policy, Euratom and External Relations, published in December 1976, is available for inspection.
Price: £150.00 the set

SWEET & MAXWELL

Bookshop: Hammick, Sweet & Maxwell, 116 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PP.

Mail orders: Sweet & Maxwell, Spon (Booksellers) Ltd., North Way, Andover, Hants SP10 5BE.

ENCIRCLE TI 338 ON PAGE 78 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Parliament

Thursday, 16 December

Imports from USSR

Mrs Winifred Ewing (Moray and Nairn) inquired about official policy towards imports of goods from the USSR which indicate production at uneconomic rates.

Mr Meacher answered, 'The prices of imports from the Soviet Union are a matter for commercial negotiation. The anti-dumping legislation provides a remedy against imports from any source, including state trading countries, which are unfairly priced and which are damaging UK industry.'

British Overseas Trade Board

Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked for a statement on the reduction of £700,000 in the funds available to the BOTB.

Mr Meacher said: 'The government has recognised the need to cut public expenditure and to make economies in the cost of civil service manpower. My rt hon friend has asked the BOTB to contribute to these economies by reducing its direct expenditure for next year by about £700,000 out of a total of about £19 million at current prices, and by a reduction of 100 out of 1,050 in manpower over the next 18 months. My rt hon friend has been advised by the board that these measures will involve some curtailment of its services but will not damage the main thrust of its promotional activities.'

Promotion of British films

Tony Durant (Reading North) asked: 'How much financial assistance is given by the government to aid the commercial exploitation of British films overseas?'

Mr Meacher replied: 'Assistance is available as for other products, for the promotion of British films overseas under the British Overseas Trade Board's Joint Venture and Outward Mission Schemes. Under the Joint Venture Scheme the BOTB may provide support for a group of British exhibitors sponsored by a trade association or other recognised body at an established overseas trade fair. The Outward Mission Scheme provides for support to sponsored groups of British exporters travelling outside Western Europe. No applications for such assistance have been received from makers or distributors of British cinematographic films.'

Invisibles

Nigel Spearing (Newham South) asked for tables showing the visible and invisible trade figures, respectively, separating exports and imports in both instances, between the United Kingdom and the Republic of South Africa together with the four other most important trading partners in Africa for the most recent year, and for each country showing the percentage change in trade over the last five years.

'Figures for trade in invisibles with individual countries are not available,' said Mr Meacher. He gave the following information for visible trade during the 12 months ending October 1976:

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Robert Cryer
Leslie Huckfield

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Roy Hattersley
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

	Exports £m fob	Percentage change from 12 months ending Oct. 1971	Imports £m cif	Percentage change from 12 months ending Oct. 1971
South Africa	669	+71	559	+147
Nigeria	713	+349	337	+147
Libya	129	+395	138	−27
Egypt	171	+653	62	+275
Algeria	100	+286	91	+393

Note: These figures exclude trade in (1) gold coin and (2) other coin of legal tender.

Japanese investment in UK

Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) wanted to know the amount of inward investment by Japanese companies in the UK for the years, 1974, 1975 and the estimate for 1976; and the proportion of this investment in the development areas.

Mr Meacher replied: 'The information available relates to Japanese net direct investment in the United Kingdom, excluding oil and insurance, in 1974 and is given in table 27 of the Business Monitor M 4, Overseas Transactions 1974, a copy of which is in the Library. Similar information in respect of 1975 is due to be published next year. Inward direct investment covers a wide range of financial transactions between overseas companies and the accounting centres of their UK operations and it is not possible to allocate such transactions to their individual operating units in different areas of the UK.'

British investment in Japan

Mr Grylls asked: 'What is the amount of inward investment by British companies in Japan for the years 1974, 1975 and the estimate for 1976?'

Mr Meacher said: 'The information available relates to United Kingdom net direct investment, excluding oil, in 1974 and is given in table 17 of the Business Monitor M4, Overseas Transactions 1974, a copy of which is in the Library. Similar information in respect of 1975 is due to be published next year.'

British Leyland

Mr Winterton asked for a list of the total amount of public funds given to British Leyland since they first made an application.

Mr Kaufman answered: '£200 million was subscribed in October 1975 under the British Leyland Act 1975 for shares pursuant to the rights issue. The first instalment of loan finance under the Ryder Report programme has not yet been paid.

'British Leyland has also taken advantage from time to time of the various schemes of assistance available to industry under the Industrial Development Act 1966, the Investment and Building Grants Act 1971 and the Industry Act 1972.'

Paper products

Mr Winterton asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would reinstate a licensing system for the import of duty free quotas of pulp, newsprint, paper and board imports.

'There is now no tariff quota for woodpulp,' said Mr Meacher. 'The annual tariff quotas for paper and paperboard have never been licensed and there appears to be no justification for its introduction. In the first two years of the tariff quota for newsprint importers

required certificates issued by the Department of Trade in order to claim relief from import duty. It was feared that otherwise the newsprint might not go to the publishers of newspapers and periodicals for whom it was intended. As experience suggested that such fears were groundless certification was abandoned in 1976 and no case has been made out so far for restoring it in 1977.'

'Why have the duty free quotas of pulp, newsprint, paper and board imports been increased for 1977?'

Mr Meacher replied: 'No duties are levied on imports of woodpulp (which is an essential raw material for the UK paper industry) and since 1975 there have been no duty free quotas. The United Kingdom's prescribed share of the EEC newsprint quota has not been increased over that for 1976.

'There have been no increases so far as paper and paperboard are concerned either, except in the case of Finland where increases in respect of three out of 22 quotas have been granted. Two of these cover products not made in the UK and the increases amount to no more than 1¾ per cent of the total quotas for Finland in 1976. The Finnish economy is particularly dependent on paper exports and this is recognised by the community in a declaration in the EEC/Finland Free Trade Agreement alone.

'An order was laid before the House on 10 December providing for 1977 duty free quotas for paper and paperboard.'

John Ovenden (Gravesend) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would specify the grades and types of paper products for which he has agreed increases in duty free quotas for 1977; and by what percentage the quota for each type has been increased.

Mr Meacher answered: 'The increases in duty-free quotas for imports of paper products for 1977 agreed for Finland are in the following grades: Kraft liner, other unbleached Kraft paper and board and semi-chemical fluting paper. The percentage increases agreed for each grade are, respectively, 6.33 per cent, 6.89 per cent and 8.73 per cent above the 1976 quota levels. (The first two increases do no more than to bring the quota levels up to the maxima permitted by the arrangements whilst the third still leaves the quota over 20 per cent below the maximum.)

'As I said in reply to my hon friend's question of 8 December (*Official Report*, Vol 922, Col 281), the three quotas together amount to an increase of less than 1¾ per cent of the total quotas for Finland in 1976. The grades increased are, and have been in the past, regarded as less sensitive than others from the point of view of the home industry. I am satisfied, as I said in my earlier answer, that the increases cannot cause further unemployment.'

Monopolies report on reprographic equipment

John Watkinson (West Gloucestershire) asked when the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection expects to publish the report of the Monopolies and Merger Commission on the supply of direct electrostatic reprographic equipment in the United Kingdom.

Mr Fraser replied: 'The report is being published today. The commission has found that monopoly conditions, as defined in the legislation in force when the reference was made, prevail in the supply of indirect electrostatic reprographic equipment in the United Kingdom because one supplier, Rank Xerox Ltd (Rank Xerox) supplies at least one-third of the market.

'The commission's finding is based on the supply of the reference goods alone, but, in its consideration of Rank Xerox's market power, the commission took account of the other reprographic processes available and concluded that the company was particularly strong in that segment of the reprographic market where users have a monthly requirement for between 5,000 and 50,000 copies per machine.

'The commission has concluded that Rank Xerox's monopoly position does not operate, and may not be expected to operate, against the public interest. It recorded that Rank Xerox is well managed, has made possible the rapid introduction of a technological innovation and has made a substantial contribution to the balance of payments. The commission has, however, suggested that the position may need to be re-examined if the competition which has developed recently were to fall away.

'The commission has considered various of Rank Xerox's policies.

'First, it has found that Rank Xerox's restrictive patent licensing policy is a thing done for the purpose of preserving monopoly conditions and that it operates and may be expected to operate against the public interest since it has restricted and delayed the development of competition. The commission has not, however, made any recommendation in this connection because of the recent consent order negotiated between the United States Federal Trade Commission and Rank Xerox's United States parent, the Xerox Corporation (Xerox) which *inter alia* requires Rank Xerox in the United Kingdom to grant, subject to certain conditions, patent licences to competing manufacturers in respect of its patents relating to reference equipment. The commission noted that, whereas a licensee manufacturing in the United States can require Xerox to provide "know-how" associated with its patents, there is no requirement that "know-how" be provided to firms manufacturing outside the United States. Since the effect of this limitation cannot be predicted the commission suggested that the matter would need to be watched as the new situation unfolds. My rt hon friend is asking the director general to monitor the impact of the order and to report to him in due course, taking account of those remedies for abuse of patent monopoly already available under the Patents Act.

'Secondly, the commission concluded that Rank Xerox's policy of only renting and not selling its machines was a thing done as a result of the monopoly conditions and that, having regard to the fact that the policy was practised by a supplier with substantial market power, it operated against the public interest in that it restricted consumer choice by not offering a purchase option and by preventing the development of alternative leasing arrangements by leasing companies. At a late stage in the commission's work Rank Xerox abandoned its rental only policy and started to offer machines for sale. The commission recommended that the Director General of Fair Trading should keep under review the sale prices fixed by Rank Xerox with a view to ensuring that these prices make outright purchase a feasible alternative to renting for a reasonable proportion of users. My rt hon friend is asking the director general to discuss the issues involved with the company accordingly.

Thirdly, the commission concluded that Rank Xerox's policy of requiring some of the users of its machines to purchase toner (a printing agent) only from Rank Xerox was a thing done as a result of the monopoly conditions and that it operated and might be expected to operate against the public interest because it closed a very substantial market to alternative suppliers of toner. The commission recommended that the company should charge for toner separately and not include the charge for toner in the rent for machines. My rt hon friend is asking the director general to obtain appropriate undertakings from the company.

'Fourthly, the commission considered Rank Xerox's Group Pricing Plan (GPP), a discount arrangement under which users or certain groups of users with large copy volumes enter into undertakings that their aggregate monthly billings in respect of all their rented machines will be maintained at or above previously specified figures in return for substantially reduced copy charges. It found that the qualifying expenditure bands on which successive reductions in charges are based had the effect of deterring customers from using, or switching to, other suppliers' machines for part of their copying requirements and that this inhibiting effect was more pronounced because Rank Xerox could base its diminishing charges on a wide range of machines, because of the company's dominant position in the reprographic market and because of the scope for grouping establishments. The commission therefore concluded that the present form of GPP was a thing done for the purpose of preserving the monopoly conditions and operated, and might be expected to operate, against the public interest. The commission recognised that Rank Xerox might require some time before it was able to propose acceptable new discount or pricing arrangements in place of the present GPP and that, if the company's competitive position were not to be impaired to the public detriment, it should have the opportunity to discuss proposals. The commission recommended that:

a Rank Xerox be required to terminate its present GPP within six months;

b any new discount or pricing arrangements (whether or not these involve the aggregation of charges of more than one machine) proposed by Rank Xerox in place of its present GPP should not be brought into operation without the approval of the director general; and

c the director general should withold approval unless he is satisfied that the proposed arrangements are unlikely to have serious anti-competitive effects.

'The commission suggested that the director general should have regard to the effects of any new arrangements on Rank Xerox's profits.

'My rt hon friend has noted that the commission received evidence from one of Rank Xerox's competitors who criticised the group-

ing of establishments such as hospitals and universities for GPP purposes on the ground that it was artificial and who suggested that the same criticism might apply to the agreement between Rank Xerox and Her Majesty's Stationery Office. The commission itself did not criticise the grouping of establishments or HMSO's actions and noted that the volume of HMSO's business with Rank Xerox was so great that the level would have to fall quite substantially before HMSO would be unable to obtain a renewal on equally favourable terms. The commission has, however, suggested that HMSO's agreement might be open to some of the objections applicable to the GPP and that the director general should discuss with HMSO the effects of its policy on competition in the industry.

'My rt hon friend is asking the director general to explore with Rank Xerox what modifications may be needed in its present GPP arrangements to remove any significant anti-competitive effects. I understand that in the light of the report the director general is also discussing with public purchasing authorities generally whether any aspect of public procurement policy requires amendment. Nonetheless, so far as concerns the acquisition of reference equipment, the government is satisfied that HMSO has properly discharged its duty to obtain best value for money and that it is has conformed with long established government policies to encourage joint purchasing arrangements in the public sector.

'The commission has also considered Rank Xerox's copy bureaux: it has found that no aspect of their operation is against the public interest but has suggested that it is desirable that the bureaux exhibit price lists. My rt hon friend is asking the director general to discuss this point with the company.

'Finally, my rt hon friend is asking the director general to keep under review the development of competition in this market to determine whether a further reference to the commission may be necessary in due course.'

Potato prices

Walter Johnson (Derby South) asked what action would be taken to protect the consumer against rises in potato prices resulting from excess profit margins.

Mr Maclennan replied: 'I have already asked the Price Commission to continue the monitoring of potato prices and distributors' margins which they began in January. The current high prices are due to the shortage of supplies. The Price Commission has found no evidence that distributors generally have been exploiting the situation, but one firm which is engaged in both the growing and the marketing of potatoes has been required to take action to eliminate excess profits.'

Friday, 17 December

Consumer Advice Centres

Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked how many of the consumer advice centres operating in each region of Great Britain on 1 December 1976 were receiving grants from the DPCP towards running costs; and for the total value of grants made for this purpose to each region to date.

Mr Maclennan gave information as at 1 December 1976 as follows:

Economic planning region	No. of centres in operation receiving DPCP grant	Value of grants towards running costs £	Value of grants made towards capital costs £	Total value of grants made to date £
North	1	451	7,845	8,296
Yorkshire and Humberside	2	20,525	29,163	49,688
East Midlands	3	140	5,600	5,740
East Anglia	3	13,993	35,187	49,180
South-East	7	37,365	61,981	99,346
South-West	1	8,150	657	8,807
West Midlands	4	30,005	47,610	77,615
North-West	2	9,841	7,830	17,671
Wales	4	19,348	29,681	49,029
Scotland	6	17,980	25,545	43,525
Total	33	157,798	251,099	408,897

Paper industry prospects

Mr Winterton asked if the Secretary of State for Industry is satisfied wtih the prospects for the United Kingdom paper industry during the next five years.

Mr Williams replied: 'The United Kingdom paper and board industry faces a number of problems during the next five years. including preparing itself for a return to free trade with our former Efta partners by 1984. The Paper and Board Sector Working Party is considering the prospects for the industry, and how its international competitive position can be improved. The £23 million scheme of financial assistance launched last June to encourage the industry to make greater use of indigenous fibres will help to alleviate one of its main current problems, that is the high cost of imported wood pulp.'

Industry Act assistance

James Sillars (South Ayrshire) asked: 'What has been the total amount of grants in the current year made under section 7 of the Industry Act to firms operating in the regions of England?'

Mr Williams replied that in the period from 1 April to 31 October 1976, grants were offered to firms in respect of projects located in Scotland and the three Main Assisted Areas of England as follows:

Scotland	England
£8,501,000	£16,227,000

These grants are equivalent to about £54 per head of the registered unemployed in Scotland and £39 per head in England.

Industrial innovation

Dafydd Wigley (Caernarvon) asked: 'What was the total identifiable public expenditure per capita on industrial innovation in England, Scotland and Wales, respectively, and the total expenditure per capita in the United Kingdom on this item in 1975-76?'

Mr Huckfield replied: 'The information available relates to net central government expenditure on research and development on industrial productivity and technology. It is given in table 7A of "Research and Development – Expenditure and employment" published by the Central Statistical Office as *Studies in Official Statistics* No 27, a copy of which is in the Library. The estimated expenditure in 1975/76 is equivalent to £2.6 per head of the population of the United Kingdom. Separate figures are not available for expenditure in England, Scotland and Wales. These figures do not include expenditure on research and development by public corporations, on which the latest available information is given in tables 1A and 11 of the same publication.'

Imports of engineering equipment

Fergus Montgomery (Altrincham and Sale) asked which engineering equipment imported into the UK could be manufactured in the UK.

Mr Williams said: 'A wide range of imported equipment is or could be manufactured in this country. Even so, the UK runs a substantial overall trade surplus in electrical and non-electrical machinery.'

Monday, 20 December

Information from overseas posts

Bryan Gould (Southampton, Test) asked: 'Whether the Secretary of State for Trade receives up-to-date information from the United Kingdom's overseas posts in the United States of America, Germany and Japan on the volume and price of manufactured goods and imported; and whether he will include such information in his monthly press notice on trade figures?'

Mr Meacher answered: "The posts in these and other countries keep us informed of the latest available information as it is published. I doubt if the monthly press notice on overseas trade is a suitable medium for publishing this data which is by then several months old, but the export unit value indices of manufactures for these countries are already shown in the monthly article entitled 'Economic Indicators of the EEC' which is published in *Trade and Industry*. We are reviewing our reporting of economic conditions in other countries in *Trade and Industry* and expect to be in a position to incorporate further information in the new year.'

Tariffs on EEC imports

Mr Gould asked when the next reduction in tariffs on EEC imports was due; and what effect this would have on the prices and volume of manufactures imported from the EEC.

Mr Meacher answered: 'The next reduction in tariffs is on 1 January 1977 when the existing tariff on imports of horticultural products from the EEC will be halved. Duties on all other goods from the EEC will be abolished by 1 July 1977. The effect of these changes on trade in manufactures is likely to be *small*, although it is not possible to quantify price-volume changes caused by tariff reductions as distinct from other macro-economic factors.'

Tractors from USSR

Patrick Wall (Haltemprice) asked: 'How many Soviet-manufactured tractors have been imported since credit terms were agreed; what effect has this had on British manufacturers; and how much of the British credit facilities to the USSR has been used for the export of British tractors to the USSR?'

Mr Meacher answered: 'From March 1975 to October 1976 inclusive 811 tractors were imported into the United Kingdom from the Soviet Union, accounting for less than 2 per cent of the UK market. During this same period no UK tractors were exported to the Soviet Union and the question of providing credit facilities did not therefore arise.'

Import of shoes

Peter Fry (Wellingborough) asked: 'What steps does the Secretary of State for Trade intend to take over the import of shoes bearing in mind that the period January to June 1976 shows an increased share of the total market of almost 6 per cent?'

Mr Meacher answered: 'Steps have already been taken to restrain those imports which raise the most serious problems for the footwear industry, but we are ready to consider what further action might be necessary. But I would point out that about three-quarters of the increase was accounted for by imports of rubber, plastic and textile footwear from the Far East. This in turn reflected sharp increases in demand for such footwear which the UK industry was unable to meet to any substantial extent.'

Imports of cheap clothing

Leslie Spriggs (St Helens) asked what efforts the Department of Trade have made towards bringing about a system of fair trading and competition between British clothing manufacturers and countries exporting cheap clothing to the UK.

Mr Meacher replied: 'Trade in clothing is governed by the Gatt Multifibre Arrangement (the MFA), one of whose main objectives is to ensure the orderly and equitable development of trade. Under the arrangement we have established a wide range of protective quotas against low-cost imports and we have also imposed additional selective controls. The future of the MFA is now being considered and with our full support the European community is pressing for major improvements.'

Defence equipment exports

Miss Jo Richardson (Barking) asked for a list of the countries to which the UK exports arms, indicating in each case the percentage which arms represent of total exports.

'The total value of defence equipment exports for 1976/77 is estimated at £700 million but the list of recipient countries is not published because defence purchases are regarded as confidential,' said Mr Meacher.

Aircraft noise

Sir George Young (Ealing, Acton) asked how many take-offs there were at Heathrow between 11.30 pm and 6.30 am between Monday and Saturday, and between 11.30 pm and 8 am on Sundays so far this year.

Mr Clinton Davis said: 'In the period 1 January to 9 December this year there were 1,992 take-offs (500 by jet aircraft and 1,492 by non-jets) from Heathrow during the hours specified.'

'How many aircraft so far during 1976 have exceeded the permitted noise levels on landing at or taking off from Heathrow?' asked Sir George Young.

Mr Clinton Davis replied: 'In the first 11 months of this year there were 116,203 jet take-offs from Heathrow of which 2,402 (2.06 per cent) exceeded the noise limits of 110PNdB during the day and 102PNdB at night. There are no noise limits for landings.'

Sir George asked if the Secretary of State for Trade was satisfied with the progress being made to reduce engine noise on aircraft.

Mr Clinton Davis answered that, bearing in mind that reduction of engine noise on aircraft was an international matter, he was confident that the progress being made was consistent with technical feasibility and economic reasonableness.

Sir George Young also asked how many emergency take-offs there were from Heathrow during the seven summer months outside the permitted hours.

'This summer a ceiling of 150 was imposed on jet departures delayed by circumstances which the operator could not reasonably have foreseen,' said Mr Clinton Davis. 'One hundred and forty-two were utilised.'

Sydney Bidwell (Ealing, Southall) asked: 'What is the estimated date by which noisy aircraft such as Tridents and VC10's will have been phased out?'

Mr Clinton Davis answered: 'It is estimated that, by 1990, under normal replacement criteria, virtually all aircraft operating at UK airports will be capable of meeting current noise certification levels. I am considering measures by which this replacement process might be hastened.'

Retail price index

Tim Renton (Mid-Sussex) asked for an estimate of the effect of devaluation of sterling during 1976 on retail prices in 1976 and the first six months of 1977, and Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked by how much the devaluation had affected food prices.

'Estimates of this kind are always subject to considerable uncertainty,' said Mr Hattersley. 'But depreciation over the 11 months to November 1976 might be expected to have increased the retail price index by about 3 per cent by the end of this year and by a total of about 5 per cent by the second quarter of 1977.

'It is not possible to distinguish the effects of sterling depreciation on food prices.'

Peter Bottomley (Greenwich, Woolwich West) asked how much the RPI has risen since February 1974, and Nigel Forman (Sutton, Carshalton) asked what is the latest year-on-year figure for the percentage increase in the RPI.

Mr Hattersley said: 'The retail price index rose by 63 per cent between February 1974 and November 1976 and the year on year increase recorded in the November Index is 15 per cent.'

Michael Morris (Northampton South) asked: 'What is the increase in the RPI over the last three months, expressed at an annual rate?'

Mr Maclennan replied: 'The RPI has increased by 19.7 per cent over the last three months expressed at an annual rate.'

The Price Commission

Anthony Grant (Harrow Central) asked about plans for the future of the Price Commission.

Mr Hattersley replied: 'The Price Commission continue to play an essential role in prices policy, through their enforcement of the price code and their investigations into particular questions about prices which I refer to them. I am considering what form future prices policy should take after the present price control powers expire next July.'

Price code

Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar, asked: 'Is the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection satisfied with the operation of the price code?'

Mr Hattersley answered: 'The price code has now been in operation for nearly four years. Despite amendment and revision it grows increasingly difficult to judge commercial performance against the criteria stipulated in the code. However, I am broadly satisfied with the operation of the code as part of the current prices policy.'

Food subsidies

Mr Montgomery asked: 'What is the effect of food subsidies on the RPI at present?'

Mr Maclennan said: 'The estimated saving on the RPI is 0.7 points or 0.4 per cent.'

Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) asked: 'What will be the total amount spent on food subsidies between the present date and the end of the programme as outlined in the White Paper on Public Expenditure, Command Paper No 6393?'

'About £110 million between the end of November 1976 and the termination of the programme,' said Mr Hattersley.

EEC and consumer protection

Michael Neubert (Havering, Romford) asked when the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection expects to meet the EEC Commissioner with special responsibility for the protection of consumer interests, and William Molloy (Ealing North) what recent discussions the Secretary of State had had with his EEC colleagues about proposals for increasing protection for the consumer.

Mr Fraser replied: 'I have recently met Commissioner Gundelach who has responsibility for the internal market and as such is closely involved with many issues affecting consumers. The present commissioner responsible for consumer affairs will be leaving shortly and my rt hon friend and I would welcome the opportunity to meet his successor. I met Madame Scrivener, the French Minister for Consumer Affairs, when she visited London earlier this year at the invitation of the British Government, and my hon friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State regularly attends Agriculture Council meetings.'

Consumer Credit Act

John Cartwright (Greenwich, Woolwich East) asked when the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection proposes to make regulations to enable consumers to ask the courts to reopen cases of unreasonable credit bargains; Arnold Shaw (Ilford South) asked about proposals for implementing the remainder of the Consumer Credit Act; and Michael Ward (Peterborough) asked for a statement on the right of access by consumers to credit reference agency files on themselves.

Mr Fraser answered: 'I expect to make regulations and an order early in 1977 which will prescribe the content and method of calculation of the rate of total charge for credit and which will determine which agreements are to be regulated by the Consumer Credit Act 1974. At the same time I intend to make an order and regulations which will bring into operation the provisions relating to credit reference agencies and extortionate credit bargains and which will start the second tranche of licensing. I hope to make the regulations relating to advertising and seeking business later in 1977. Other provisions will be made effective after this.'

Petrol prices

Hugh Dykes (Harrow East) asked for a list of the percentage increases in average retail forecourt petrol prices in 1974, 1975 and to the latest available date in 1976.

Mr Maclennan said that the approximate increases were 75 per cent in 1974, 5 per cent in 1975 and 2 per cent in the first nine months of 1976.

Petrol sales on credit cards

Ioan Evans (Aberdare) asked for a statement on the practice of credit card companies preventing garages from giving discounts to cash customers.

Mr Fraser said: 'Over the past few months, credit card companies have been taking action against traders who are not prepared to abide by the terms of their agreement with the credit card companies and sell petrol on credit cards on the same terms as sales for cash. However, I understand that the Director General of Fair Trading is considering a number of subjects for possible references to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission amongst which are the services provided to credit card franchise holders, including garages. I have drawn my hon friend's interest to his attention.'

Banger fireworks

Mrs Ann Taylor (Bolton West) and Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) asked about steps being taken to reduce the sale of banger fireworks.

Mr Fraser answered: 'Under the voluntary agreement with the firework manufacturers, the output of such fireworks will by next year have been reduced to one-half the 1975 output. I propose to hold discussions on arrangements for future years when the 1976 injury statistics become available.'

European Regional Development Fund

Fred Silvester (Manchester, Withington) asked the Secretary of State for Industry to detail for Scotland and Wales separately and for each English economic planning region for which it is relevant, the number of projects for which he has received applications to the European Regional Development Fund, the number of such projects he has submitted to the Commission, and the number approved by the commission from the inception of the fund to the latest date.

Mr Williams replied: 'Applications to the European Regional Development Fund are prepared by several government departments including my department. Industrial projects are generally identified by government departments as a result of their dealings with individual businesses. Suggestions for infrastructure projects to be submitted for fund aid may be put forward by local authorities and other organisations providing infrastructure.

'The following table gives the number of projects included in applications made for fund aid and the number for which the commitment of fund aid has been announced. Other projects are still under consideration.'

	Number of projects	
	Applications 1975 and 1976	Fund commitments granted 1975 and 1976
Northern	265	262
North West	167	167
Yorkshire and Humberside	130	105
East Midlands	26	26
West Midlands	2	2
South West	79	76
ENGLAND	669	638
SCOTLAND	268	265
WALES	239	239
NORTHERN IRELAND	97	97
Total United Kingdom	1,273	1,239

Skelmersdale

Michael McGuire (Ince) asked for details of the number of companies which have closed down in the Skelmersdale New Town since 1964, giving, in each case, (a) the total amount received from the government by way of grants, (b) the number of male and female jobs lost and (c) the amount of compensation, if any, which was repaid to the government.

Mr Williams replied: 'I regret that information in the form requested is not available. Before Part IV of the Employment Protection Act came into effect in March 1976 redundancies were notified voluntarily. We are aware of 27 closures since 1964 in Skelmersdale, involving some 4,100 jobs. Apart from lists of substantial individual payments of Regional Development Grants and Selective Financial Assistance under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 which are published quarterly in *Trade and Industry*, information about Regional Development Grants, Selective Financial Assistance under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972, and Investment Grants is regarded as confidential between the department and the company concerned. The department has the right to require repayment if the conditions attached to Regional Development Grants or loans under section 7 are not met.'

Coventry

George Park (Coventry North East) asked what had been the net gain or loss of jobs in Coventry in the last three years; and what effect regional policy had had on the situation.

Mr Williams said that, according to the latest census of employment available, there were 192,000 employees in employment in June 1975 as compared with 191,500 in June 1972, an increase of 800. Only one IDC had been refused in the Coventry 'Travel to Work' Area between these dates, and 45 IDC's were approved.

Statistical inquiries

David Hunt (Wirral) asked for an estimate of the total cost of statistical inquiries borne on the votes of the Departments of Industry, Trade, and Prices and Consumer Protection in 1976-77, including those statistical inquiries carried out by other departments, but the cost of which is borne on the said votes, giving also the estimated total number of civil servants engaged thereon, specifying whether full-time or part-time.

Mr Huckfield answered as the three departments share a common statistical service.

'The estimated total cost, borne on the Department of Industry vote in 1976-77 of carrying out a very wide range of statistical inquiries designed not only to meet the specific needs of the three departments, but also to provide data for the use of other economic departments and to meet the requirements of the EEC is £5.1 million,' he said.

'Apart from these other departments, which include HM Treasury, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Departments of Energy and the Environment, the Scottish Office and the Welsh Office, the needs of the business community and the general public are also served.

'The number of civil servants involved is about 1,200, full time.'

Paper and board

Robert Woof (Blaydon) asked: 'What have been the imports of paper and board production of all member countries of the EEC since 1 January 1972 to the latest available date.

Mr Meacher gave the following information:

IMPORTS OF PAPER, PAPERBOARD AND MANUFACTURERS THEREOF (SITC DIVISION 64) BY THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE EEC

(US $ million cif)

	1972	1973	1974	1975
Belgium/Luxembourg	314	441	647	540
Denmark	177	250	331	356
France	487	662	1,012	879
German Federal Republic	824	1,134	1,545	1,543
Ireland	58	76	128	110
Italy	169	254	411	247
Netherlands	347	469	706	697
United Kingdom	779	986	1,699	1,385

Source:
OECD Statistics of Foreign Trade Series B
United Kingdom – Overseas Trade Statistics.
Later statistics are not available for some countries.

Mr Woof asked what information had been received by the Secretary of State for Industry about the levels of production, employment and profitability in the British paper industry; and what representations he had received concerning the possible effects of stricter price control on profit levels and employment in the industry.

Mr Cryer answered: 'The industry has provided information on levels of production, employment and profitability to the Paper and Board Sector Working Party under the industrial strategy programme. It has also expressed views on the policy and arrangements on price control which it regards as desirable after the present code expires next July. The sector working party will take all this into account in its further work and reports.'

'What disadvantage is the British paper and board industry manufacturing industry suffering compared with EEC member countries because of the greater strength of European currencies?' asked Mr Woof.

'The cost of imported wood pulp, on which the industry at present relies for nearly one half of its fibre requirements, has risen as the parity rate for sterling has declined against the US dollar, in which most pulp is traded internationally,' said Mr Cryer. 'The paper

industries in the other member states of the EEC have been less affected, if at all, in this way. The £23 million scheme of financial assistance to encourage the United Kingdom industry to make more use of indigenous fibre will help to alleviate the problem. And the current sterling parity improves the industry's prospects for exports, including to the rest of the EEC.'

Mr Woof asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would seek discussions with Scandinavian producers about their present pricing policies for paper and board, in the light of international agreements.

Mr Cryer said: 'I am aware of the concern of the United Kingdom paper and board industry on this matter on which, as on previous occasions, the industry had had discussions with foreign suppliers. It is hoped that the relationships between the prices of wood pulp and of paper products imported into the UK will shortly improve. I shall keep the matter under review.'

'What representations have been received from the British paper and board industry, concerning the practicability of reducing its dependence on imported wood pulp?' asked Mr Woof.

'I have not recently had representations from the industry on this question,' said Mr Cryer. 'Following consultations with the industry, a £23 million scheme of financial assistance was launched last June, to help it to increase its capacity to use indigenous fibres and to advance recycling technology, thus reducing dependence on imported wood pulp. The Paper and Board Sector Working Party under the Industrial Strategy programme and the Waste Paper Recycling Working Party of the Waste Management Advisory Council are also considering these matters. But the industry and my department are represented on these bodies.'

'What negotiations have been taking place with regard to revised quotas for paper imports?' asked Mr Woof.

Mr Cryer replied that the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade laid an order before the House on 10 December, in respect of quota levels for duty free entry of paper and board (and printed) products imported from Efta in 1977. In the preceding negotiations full account was taken of the condition of the United Kingdom paper and board industry, and the representations it had made to the government.

Mr Woof asked what financial aid is given to the British paper and board industry in connection with EEC directives on water pollution by the pulp mill industry; and if such financial aid in other member countries of the EEC would affect UK companies' competitive position.

Mr Cryer said: 'None. It is not the government's policy to offer assistance to industry exclusively towards meeting pollution control costs. Comprehensive information on government assistance to pulp mills for pollution control on offer by other member states of the EEC is not readily available. It would in any case be necessary to look at the totality of government assistance available, to form a considered view of the effects which such assistance might have on the competitive positions of the industries concerned.'

Mr Woof asked 'What consideration has been given to supporting developments in the EEC towards common policies on waste paper problems, particularly any aspect tending towards market stability?'

Mr Cryer said: 'My department is represented on a working group on waste paper set up by the EEC commission last July to study the twin problems of reducing the dependence on imported wood pulp of the paper industries in the EEC, and the need to dispose of industrial and household waste as economically as possible. A preliminary meeting was held in July and further meetings will take place in 1977. The group will be considering, among other matters, possible methods of reducing the fluctuations which characterise the market for waste paper.'

'What duty free quotas of paper and wood pulp and selective grant schemes by other EEC countries place the British paper industry at a disadvantage compared with its competitors in the EEC?' asked Mr Woof.

Mr Cryer replied: 'During the period of the United Kingdom's membership of Efta, free trade in industrial goods, including paper and board products, was established between the United Kingdom and the countries concerned. Under the terms of the Free Trade Agreements between the EEC and the now remaining Efta countries, this very valuable free trade relationship was preserved almost intact so far as UK exports to the Efta countries were concerned, but some degree of protection was re-introduced against imports of paper from Efta. As part of the arrangements, annual quotas are opened by the UK to permit the bulk of our imports of paper products from the Efta countries to continue to enter free of duty. Similar arrangements are made by Denmark and Ireland. By contrast, all imports of paper products from Efta by the original Six are subject to duty, but at reducing rates which from 1 July 1977 will be equal to those applied by the UK on imports above its quota levels. These transitional arrangements will cease to operate on 31 December 1983, after which there will be free trade in paper products between the whole community and Efta. The arrangements I have described do not apply to imports of newsprint, for which, irrespective of source, the quota arrangements in force are the same for the UK as for the rest of the EEC. There are no quota or other restrictions on imports of wood pulp by the UK nor, so far as I know, by any country in the EEC. Comprehensive information about selective grant schemes by other countries in the EEC is not readily available, but the £23 million scheme for the UK paper and board industry announced on 15 June this year will certainly afford substantial assistance to our own industry.'

Mr Grylls asked for details of the objects of aid given under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972, to firms in the paper and board industry.

Mr Williams answered: 'The paper and board industry scheme is intended to promote the use of greater quantities of indigenous fibre, especially waste paper, in paper and board manufacture, with the principal aims of benefitting the balance of payments by reducing imports of wood pulp, and at the same time improving the competitiveness of the industry. To date 14 projects (capital costs, £19.3 million; grants payable, £3.9 million) have been approved. One offer of assistance (capital cost £698,000; grants payable £174,000) has so far been accepted. No payments have yet been made.'

Tuesday, 21 December

Import of East European suits

Giles Shaw (Pudsey) asked the Secretary of State for Trade: 'Why, in the light of his undertaking in March to the wool textile industry that the quota for wool suits from Romania would be reduced by 40,000, he authorised a total quota of 370,000 suits to be imported in 1976?'

Mr Williams replied: 'My rt hon friend the Secretary of State for Trade announced on 10 March 1976 that, following discussions with five Eastern European suppliers of men's woollen suits, voluntary and imposed restraints would limit maximum sendings during 1976 to a level about 8 per cent below those for 1975. The estimated reduction from the five countries was 30,000.

'The community's negotiations under the Multi Fibre Arrangement with Romania resulted in agreement on a figure of 370,000 for suits of wool and of man-made fibre to the UK, which was only slightly higher than total imports in 1975. The MFA provides that the restriction sought must be based on recent performance.'

Answering further questions from Mr Shaw, Mr Williams said: 'The Multi Fibre Arrangement provides for annual growth in agreed quotas of at least 6 per cent. We secured a figure for 1977 for UK imports which represents an increase of less than this proportion.'

Questions were asked by Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) on the number of men's and women's overcoats, suits and jackets imported from Romania in 1975 and 1976 and the quota for 1977.

Mr Dell said that the quotas set for the UK for suits, jackets and overcoats in the recent community agreement with Romania were as follows:

(thousands of pieces)

	Imports in 1975	1976 quota	1977 quota
Suits	368	370	384
Jackets	180	237	241
Overcoats	59	120	146

Imports of suits in the first eight months of 1976 totalled 158,410.

Preston Dock

Ronald Atkins (Preston North) asked what action was proposed in order to ensure employment for workers made redundant by the closure of Preston Dock.

'We will continue to promote industrial development by bringing to the attention of industrialists the financial incentives available as well as the vacant sites in the docks,' said Mr Cryer.

National Enterprise Board

David Howell (Guildford) asked when the resources of the NEB would be increased; by how much; and if these extra resources would create new jobs or additional investment.

Mr Huckfield said: 'In both 1977-78 and 1978-79 the public expenditure provision for the NEB will be increased by £50 million, to £275 million. These funds will be used by the NEB for industrial investment and reorganisation.'

UK/USSR trade and technological agreement

Nicholas Scott (Kensington and Chelsea, Chelsea) wanted to know the terms of reference for the permanent UK/USSR Commission for Co-operation in the Fields of Applied Science, Technology, Trade and Economic Relations; and what the commission has agreed to date.

Mr Meacher stated: 'The following terms of reference of the Permanent United Kingdom-Soviet Union Inter-Governmental Commission for Co-operation in the Fields of Applied Science, Technology, Trade and Economic Relations were adopted at the first meeting of the Joint Commission in January 1971:

'1 The United Kingdom-Soviet Union Inter-Governmental Commission for Co-operation in the Fields of Applied Science, Technology, Trade and Economic Relations, hereinafter called the Joint Commission is created to discuss the implementation of co-operation currently taking place in accordance with the Long Term Trade Agreement and the Agreement for Co-operation in the Fields of Applied Science and Technology, and to seek new opportunities for improving and extending co-operation in the Fields of Applied Science, Technology, Trade and Economic Relations between the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union.

'2 The Long-Term Trade Agreement for Co-operation in the Fields of Applied Science and Technology will in no way be affected by the creation of the Joint Commission, except insofar as a separate annual review under article 5(1) of the Agreement for Co-operation in the Field of Applied Science and Technology need no longer be held.

'3 The Joint Commission will consist of British and Soviet groups created on a basis of parity, each numbering not more than 10 principal members. Each government will accordingly designate the chairman and members of its part of the Joint Commission. The United Kingdom will have as its chairman the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and will include representatives of the British industry. The Soviet side will have as its chairman the Chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union. Each group will have its own permanent secretariat.

'4 The Joint Commission will normally meet once a year at times agreed by the chairmen of the two groups. The meetings will be held alternately in London and Moscow and will be presided over by a representative of the receiving side. The agenda for each meeting will, so far as possible, be agreed not later than four weeks before the date fixed for the meeting.

'5 Recommendations by the Joint Commission will be adopted with the mutual consent of both groups reporting to their respective governments. Both governments, may by agreement, announce conclusions of the Joint Commission, the publication of which they consider by mutual consent to be useful. The results of the discussions between the two groups of the Joint Commission will be reflected in a summary record which will be drawn up in the English and Russian languages, and will be signed by the two chairmen.

'There have been five meetings of the joint commission which have provided useful opportunities for reviewing at senior ministerial level our trade with the Soviet Union and the possibilities for economic, industrial, scientific and technological co-operation between the two countries; and for identifying specific projects or sectors of industry which appear to offer good prospects of beneficial trade or co-operation for the United Kingdom.'

Statistical forms

David Mitchell (Basingstoke) asked what was the number of different questionnaires requiring an answer which was sent out by the Department of Trade last year, and how many of each sort were sent out.

Mr Clinton Davis's reply is published on page 69.

Import of cars from Japan

George Park (Coventry North East) asked about the imposition of a definite quota on imports of cars from Japan.

Mr Meacher said: 'Following exchanges earlier this year with the British car industry, the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers' Association forecast that there would be no conspicuous change in the Japanese share of the British car market. In 1975 Japanese cars accounted for 9.04 per cent of British registrations, and in the first 11 months of this year for 9.53 per cent. I understand that further discussions between the British and Japanese industries are likely to take place early next year, and I look forward to continuing and effective restraint on imports into Britain from this source.'

Monopolies Commission report on batteries

Ioan Evans (Aberdare) asked when the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection expects to implement the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the supply of primary batteries.

Mr Fraser's reply is published on page 11.

North Sea oil – participation agreements

James Dempsey (Coatbridge and Airdrie) asked: 'Has the Secretary of State for Energy reached any further participation agreement?'

Dr J. Dickson Mabon, Minister of State, Department of Energy, made the following reply.

CHEVRON

In implementation of Her Majesty's Government's policy of securing majority state participation, HMG and the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) concluded on 17 December a Memorandum of Understanding with Chevron on the principles governing majority state participation in Chevron's interest in the Ninian field and related facilities in the North Sea. All parties intend to conclude a definitive, legal agreement embodying these principles as soon as possible.

The agreement provides for BNOC to have access after a build-up period to up to 51 per cent of Chevron's oil from the Ninian field at market price with Chevron having certain repurchase rights. There will be full consultations between HMG, advised by BNOC under section 3(3) of the Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Act 1975, and Chevron on matters of common interest.

Through these participation arrangements, BNOC will gain an effective voice and vote in the committees managing field operations.

SANTA FE

The government and BNOC have also today signed heads of agreement on participation by BNOC with Santa Fe (UK) Ltd and Santa Fe Minerals (UK) Inc in respect of the Santa Fe interest in the licence covering Block 211/18 in which the greater part of the Thistle field is situated. It is intended that a definitive agreement should be signed by 31 May 1977. Santa Fe has a 22.5 per cent interest in the licence and a 21.7 per cent interest in the Thistle field.

Under the agreement BNOC will after a build-up period have the right to take, at market price, up to 51 per cent of Santa Fe's share of petroleum won and saved from all commercial development in Block 211/18. The agreement also provides for BNOC to have additional voting rights under the pertinent Operating Agreements.

The implementation of the agreement will fully satisfy the government's policy of achieving majority state participation in Santa Fe's interest while leaving Santa Fe financially neither better nor worse off.

Wednesday, 22 December

Industrial development

Mr A. J. Beith (Berwick upon Tweed) asked what additional funds would be made available for industrial development in English development areas in order to provide more selective assistance as a replacement for the regional employment premium; and whether any of these funds would be disbursed through the Development Commission.

Mr Williams answered that the Chancellor announced on 15 December that an additional £80 million would be made available in each of the next two years for expenditure on selective assistance to industry. Suitable projects in the English Development Areas as elsewhere in Great Britain, would be eligible for assistance under the new Selective Investment Scheme and the various industry schemes. Assistance under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 would continue to be available. There were separate arrangements for providing funds for the Development Commission.

Treaties with Eastern Europe, etc

Patrick Wall (Haltemprice) asked for a list of the number and grades of civil servants occupied with the implementation of treaties, trade and other agreements with the USSR and members of the Warsaw Pact, the Commonwealth, the EEC and the USA, respectively, together with an estimate of the volume of trade with each of these four groups during the past 10 years.

'The information is not available in the form requested,' said Mr Dell. 'Staff in the Commercial Relations and Export Divisions of my department responsible for commercial relations with overseas countries are as follows:

	CRE1 Multilateral agreements	CRE2 The Americas Africa and Australasia	CRE3 Western Europe	CRE4 Eastern Europe and Asia	CRE5 Middle East
US	1	1	1	1	1
AS	3	3	2	2	3
Principal	8	8	5	8	4
SEO	1	—	—	—	—
HEO	7	10	5	10	4
Supporting staff	29	43	26	35	14
TOTAL	49	65	39	56*	26

* Another 10 staff are employed in the International Technological Collaboration Unit.

Following is the information on the value of trade with the four groups of countries concerned:

£ million

	Imports (cif)				Exports (fob)			
	USSR and Warsaw Pact	Commonwealth	EEC	USA	USSR and Warsaw Pact	Commonwealth	EEC	USA
1966	241	1,560	1,497	723	151	1,249	1,378	654
1967	254	1,543	1,707	812	175	1,172	1,394	642
1968	303	1,752	2,062	1,066	230	1,357	1,741	915
1969	331	1,835	2,151	1,133	230	1,500	2,067	912
1970	354	2,056	2,440	1,174	259	1,589	2,359	944
1971	344	2,065	2,915	1,095	253	1,891	2,660	1,096
1972	387	2,114	3,520	1,180	276	1,802	2,940	1,220
1973	545	2,701	5,206	1,622	323	2,065	4,034	1,525
1974	673	3,319	7,713	2,258	429	2,715	5,516	1,777
1975	673	3,274	8,786	2,352	584	3,246	6,417	1,788

Mr Wall asked: 'What items of advanced technology have been transferred to the USSR or any other Warsaw Pact member which might directly or indirectly assist them to make or improve any of the items which were listed in the schedule of goods subject to security export control as published in Trade and Industry *of 12 October 1972 and any amendment since the publication of that list?'*

Mr Meacher said, 'Approval has not been given for the transfer of items of advanced technology in the consolidated list of goods subject to security export control which would enable the USSR or other members of the Warsaw Pact countries to gain a technological advantage over the West.'

Company returns

Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) asked how many companies should have filed annual returns for 1974 and 1975; how many had not done so and what estimate has been made of the percentage of the latter attributed to: companies not yet commenced to trade or not trading, companies whose tax liabilities have been settled, errors by the Registrar's staff, mistakes, and frauds.

'We estimate that about 514,000 companies were required to lodge annual returns with the Registrar for 1974, of which 93,000 are still outstanding,' said Mr Clinton Davis. 'The comparable figures for 1975 are 522,000 and 82,000. These exclude in each year companies recently incorporated or in the process of removal from the register. Statistics are not maintained to show the cause of default and accordingly I am unable to give any estimates.'

German marine insurance

Mr Wrigglesworth asked for a statement about the placing of German marine insurance in the London Market.

Mr Dell stated: 'Recent German legislation appears to go beyond the requirements of the EEC First Co-ordination Directive on non-life insurance business by stopping German brokers from placing marine insurance outside Germany as they have been able to do for many years. One British company has made a formal complaint to the EEC Commission that the German action is in breach of the Treaty of Rome. The German government have assured us that for the time being they will not take action against German brokers who continue to place business in London.'

Thursday, 23 December

Wrought titanium

Robin Hodgson (Walsall North) asked for a progress report on the international harmonisation of tariffs on wrought titanium.

Mr Meacher answered: 'Discussions are continuing in the Gatt multilateral trade negotiations on proposals for tariff reductions, including a proposal from the EEC which would effect a substantial degree of harmonisation. It is hoped to conclude the negotiations by the end of 1977.'

Air Travel Reserve Fund

Greville Janner (Leicester West) asked: 'How much money is held at present in the Air Travel Reserve Fund?'

'I am advised by the chairman of the Air Travel Reserve Fund that the reserve fund amounts to about £5.55 million,' said Mr Clinton Davis.

Mr Janner also asked about the Secretary of State for Trade's intentions and policies towards the continuation or abolition of the levy currently charged on package holidays, to which the Air Travel Reserve Fund is related.

'I have no immediate plans to reduce the level of the contributions to the reserve fund, but I shall keep the position under review in the light of the agency's accounts,' said Mr Meacher.

ECGD

Mike Thomas (Newcastle upon Tyne East) asked 'whether the Export Credits Guarantee Department is yet ready to give guarantees in foreign currency to facilitate the financing of export credit in foreign currency?'

Mr Dell replied: 'ECGD have been in active negotiation with a number of banks and have now distributed to them final draft documents. The new arrangements will ensure that, although foreign currency funds may be available from the market on variable terms, the UK banks will continue to be able to offer overseas borrowers normal export credit terms. ECGD will therefore need to be able to step in to provide any finance that may cease to be available from the market. For this purpose, I have authorised ECGD to use the powers in section 2(2) of the Export Guarantee Act 1975 to make loans to overseas borrowers.'

Anglo-Polish trade deal

Terence L. Higgins (Worthing) asked if the Anglo-Polish trade deal announced on 16 December includes a binding commitment on the Polish Government to buy British ships; if so, whether the Polish buyers would obtain any terms as a result of the agreement that they would not have obtained if they had entered into a commercial agreement with British shipbuilders; whether the buyers will obtain any advantages not available to British shipping companies who order ships in United Kingdom yards; and whether the payments from the buyers will vary with the operating profitability of the ships.

'The UK and Polish Governments have agreed the deal in principle,' said Mr Huckfield. 'Details of the financial arrangements are still in the course of negotiation and must therefore be confidential at this stage.'

Mr Higgins also inquired about the estimated effect on the profitability of British carriers which may result from competition from increased Polish cargo capacity built under the recent Anglo-Polish trade deal.

Mr Clinton Davis answered: 'The vessels, bulk carriers of various sizes, will carry cargoes which are in any case reserved to the Polish flag; consequently there will be no effect on the profitability of British carriers.'

Metrication Board

Robin Hodgson (Walsall North) asked what was the authorised and actual staff establishment of the Metrication Board on 31 December 1973, 1974 and 1975.

Mr Fraser gave the following figures:

	Authorised	Actual
31 December 1973	68	60
31 December 1974	63	59
31 December 1975	65	64

Mr Hodgson also asked about the board's budget.

Mr Fraser gave figures of the board's expenditure for each of the calendar years 1973-76 as follows:

1973	£678,000 (includes £347,000 on information)
1974	£655,000 (includes £343,000 on information)
1975	£914,000 (includes £500,000 on information)
1976 (Estimated)	£1,035,000 (includes £600,000 on information)

Correction

UK overseas trade

Incorrect figures were given in the answer to a question from Nigel Forman (Sutton, Carshalton) on 11 November 1976 (see *Trade and Industry*, 19 November 1976, page 488). Mr Forman had asked by how much in percentage terms exports had increased to each of Great Britain's major trading partners over the two years from October 1974. In Mr Meacher's reply giving the percentage changes in the value of our exports between October 1974 and September 1976 incorrect figures were given for South Africa and Spain. The figures should be South Africa + 12, Spain + 24.

European community news

January standstill arrangement for community fishing

EEC foreign ministers have agreed to a standstill arrangement on community fishing activities during January without prejudice to the position of any member state on the content of a future fisheries regime.

Reporting to the Commons on the outcome of a special one-day council held on 20 December, David Owen, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, explained that ministers had heard a progress report from Finn Olav Gundelach, acting commissioner for external affairs, on the state of negotiations with third countries.

Mr Gundelach regretted that he had so far been unable to reach agreement with the Icelandic government on arrangements which would permit the resumption of British fishing in Icelandic waters from 1 January. He hoped and would continue to work for a positive decision by the Icelandic government but he indicated that this might not be possible until the Icelandic parliament had reconvened on 24 January.

It was against this background, Dr Owen reported, that the council had decided that it would not be possible to reach agreement on the interim measures for an internal fisheries regime suggested by the commission until greater clarity emerged as to how much fish would be available both inside and outside the waters of member states.

Dr Owen said that the standstill arrangement provided that member states would restrain their catches during January to within the quantity taken in January 1976. Existing conservation measures would remain unchanged during the short standstill period.

This one-month standstill, Dr Owen concluded, was consistent with the need to consult on the detail of non-discriminatory conservation methods which will be necessary either as part of the UK's community agreement or prior to reaching agreement on a common fisheries policy.

Benn points to danger of a community consumer-producer dialogue

The community's consumer-producer dialogue was at least as important as the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation, Secretary of State for Energy Tony Benn said at an energy council in Brussels on 21 December. He said the basic question was: 'is the community seriously interested in stimulating energy investment in the community or does it wish to be dependent for much longer on imported energy?'

Mr Benn said that there was a danger that the consumer-producer dialogue might be reflected in the community – 'the UK as producers and the others as consumers'.

The UK with its large coal and oil investment had a very significant role to play in developing the community's energy resources. 'We wish to play it very constructively, but we must be persuaded – and we have to persuade our own people – that our balance of production and expansion is preserved,' he said.

He declared his opposition to a proposal for the financing of investment in nuclear energy by means of community loans, unless this was linked to the protection of investment in the community's oil resources by setting up a $7 minimum safeguard price (MSP) for oil within the community. Such a price would safeguard the costly investment in oil exploitation by ensuring an adequate return on that investment.

'It is simply not sensible to ask the council of ministers to deal with nuclear investment, which is very important to us, and to say to the largest energy producer (Britain) we are not prepared to make a move to stimulate coal and oil.'

He said that it was a matter of hard realism that if an MSP of $7 was not agreed this would have an impact on the amount of energy which the UK contributed to the community.

Ministers approved a scheme restricting intra-community trade in oil in the event of a critical shortage of supply.

Nuclear fusion not on its death-bed

Speaking in the commons on 20 December, Alex Eadie, Under-Secretary of State for Energy, said he felt sure that the EEC would show the necessary determination and resolve to ensure that fusion became a community project. 'I do not believe,' he said, 'that fusion is on its deathbed.'

He was 'reasonably optimistic' that he would be able to impress on his EEC colleagues that Culham was the best site for the joint European Torus thermo-nuclear fusion project: 'I have fought hard for the Jet project to come to Culham,' Mr Eadie said. 'I have been conscious of the fact that we have a strong case because we have the necessary scientific and technological background there.

'Our case impressed many people in Europe, but I also stressed that the the European community must do fusion and that there would be no obstruction from Great Britain if the European community decided to take the project somewhere other than Culham.'

EEC-Japan trade: increased exports will bring better balance – Gundelach

The commission remains as firmly as ever in favour of an expansion of trade between the community and Japan, Finn Olav Gundelach, acting commissioner for external affairs, told the European parliament on 15 December.

Replying to a question from John Osborne, a member of the European conservative group he said, 'We consider that the development of a better trade balance should principally be achieved by increasing community exports to Japan. He added that since immediate results could not be expected in this field, the commission believed that any sectoral problems which might arise in trade with Japan should be handled by active consultation with a view to avoiding unilateral restrictions which, in the end, could only be harmful to the international trading community, including the EEC.

The community had been compelled in recent months to warn her Japanese partners that the credibility of this policy was being seriously undermined and that if this credibility could not be restored by concrete measures, the commission feared for its survival. This was why the commission had 'seized every opportunity to point out to the Japanese government and Japanese industry that the sharp increase in the community's trade deficit with Japan and the rapid growth and concentration of Japanese exports in a very limited but important number of sectors were bringing with them the danger of provoking a reaction which will be damaging to mutual trade relations and to the fabric of multilateral world trade in general.

'When I visited Japan this summer, I expressed the fear that, quite unwittingly they were sowing the dragon's teeth of protectionism,' Mr Gundelach said.

Turning first to the question of Japanese steel exports to the community, he explained that after a session of fact-finding talks which were held in Tokyo at the end of October, a session of regular ECSC-Japan talks were held in November. On that occasion the Japanese side provided satisfactory and reassuring information about the estimated level of steel exports

in 1977, which were scheduled to be lower than in 1976. They specifically confirmed that the extension for 1977 of the existing voluntary export restraints, being practised by the six major Japanese steel producers would be authorised. Reassurances, as requested by the commission, were also provided regarding exports by the smaller producers of shapes, angles and sections of flat bars and of special steel.

There was no question of any agreement being sought by the one side or being entered into by the other, but of assurances, Mr Gundelach emphasised.

So far as Japanese exports of special steels to the UK were concerned, it was made clear at the beginning of September, after informal talks between the community and Japan, that Japanese shipments in the first half of 1977 would be well below the level of the corresponding period in 1976. There would be further talks early in the new year about the expected level of exports during the second half of next year.

On the question of shipbuilding, Mr Gundelach said that he feared the situation was 'still a good deal less satisfactory' although he did not wish at this stage 'to sound too pessimistic'. The commission had given particular emphasis, at the high-level consultations in the middle of November, to the serious problems which the community's shipbuilding industry faced in view of world-wide over-capacity in this sector. A great deal of unemployment was at stake.

'We considered that Japan had a special responsibility in this matter because Japan is a country that has most rapidly expanded in capacity in recent years. The whole question is being discussed in the framework of the OECD, but admittedly without much progress being made so far,' Mr Gundelach said.

The commission had now, in the context of these talks, persuaded Japan that it could be useful to hold bilateral talks in parallel with those multilateral discussions 'in order to give us an opportunity to put our views more forcefully and possibly pave the way for an acceptable multilateral solution', he said.

He pointed out that neither the commission nor member states were prepared to stand idly by and watch a major community industry being squeezed out of existence with all the economic, strategic, regional and social consequences, in particular with regard to unemployment that that would entail. 'Our approach to these talks is that, if we are to avoid a thoroughly unhealthy international rat race over who gets what share of the shipbuilding market, time is now running out.'

Dealing briefly with two aspects in which he thought there were 'some signs of improvement', Mr Gundelach said that in respect of ballbearings the community officially opened an anti-dumping investigation in November. The commission would be holding a meeting with Japanese exporters in January. Meanwhile they had already raised their prices by 5 per cent and a further price increase of 10 per cent was envisaged at the beginning of the new year. He added that the commission would follow up this investigation 'vigorously but fairly'.

Secondly on the subject of Japanese car exports to the British market, Mr Gundelach said, 'Following my conversation with Mr Yoshino on 16 November the Japanese government has told us that their car industry estimates that their exports to Britain in 1976 will not conspicuously exceed the level of 1975. Further exchanges of information between the industries concerned regarding prospects for 1977 are in train.'

On community exports to Japan, Mr Gundelach said that in certain sectors concrete progress towards improving conditions for the access of community goods to the Japanese market had already been made. So far as motor vehicles were concerned, Japanese testing would be carried out in Europe from 1 April next year. The commission had also obtained some changes regarding the application of safety and pollution standards to all cars exported to Japan. In the pharmaceutical sector certain pre-clinical tests carried out in Europe had been recognised by the Japanese authorities since the beginning of October. The remaining non-tariff barriers in this and other fields had been communicated or would be communicated to the Japanese and the commission looked forward to detailed discussions in the near future.

The commission had also raised with Japan a number of specific problems relating to European exports of footwear and canned meat to Okinawa, on all of which the commission was awaiting replies from the Japanese side. 'We have also received certain helpful assurances about imports of manufactured tobacco products,' Mr Gundelach added.

Imports into Japan of silk products from Italy had been the subject of successfully concluded consultations. 'We have also established in consultations that a resumption of growth of imports into Japan of textiles and clothing from the community can be expected when the economic upturn in consumer expenditure there improves, as there are signs it will,' he added.

'In respect of chemicals and, perhaps most important of all, processed food,' Mr Gundelach said, 'we are preparing for further early work together. There will be a detailed round of bilateral talks about processed food early in the new year and I make no secret in talks with the Japanese authorities of the fact that we attach very great importance to the expansion of our exports in this sector. This is a sector where our exports are generally rather competitive and where expansion could take place relatively rapidly and without the long lead-time in major investment in distribution and servicing facilities which is often an absolute prequisite to successful exporting in other sectors.'

The commission also wanted to study with the Japanese such general issues as the Japanese regulations on trade marks, packaging and other similar non-tariff barriers or related issues, and the impediments to European exports which arose from the Japanese distribution system which was 'a matter of great importance,' he said.

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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Ortoli says 'Priority must be given to EEC's internal development'

Europe must not be allowed to die from within for lack of the support that integration would provide, said retiring president of the commission Francois Xavier Ortoli in his address to the European parliament on 15 December.

'Priority must be given to the internal development of the community, to reducing the differences between us, to framing an economic policy for Europe which will use growth and employment to make the most of our range of assets and qualities, and of our spirit of solidarity, and provide support for our effort to reorganise the economy.'

In a review of his four years as commission president, Mr Ortoli explained that at the beginning of 1973, the commission had rapidly reorganised itself to take account of the realities of a nine-member community and started work straight away in the economic and monetary field by setting up the monetary co-operation fund and proposing pooled reserves. The commission had prepared a report on regional problems in the enlarged community, set in motion a policy to protect the environment and the consumer, pushed ahead with the social policy and turned its thoughts towards the new association policy.

But the year was not over, he went on, and the community was faced with the most serious crisis in its history, a world-wide crisis with disastrous consequences and persisting uncertainty, in sharp contrast with the 25 or 30 years of uninterrupted growth we had experienced since the end of the second world war.'

As a result of the crisis the member

states had lost no time in looking to their own interests; 'solidarity disappeared at the threat of a cut-off in oil supplies, the second stage of economic and monetary union went by the board, the regional development fund was frozen.'

Mr Ortoli said that he was convinced that the changed international circumstances compelled member states, even more than in the past, to look beyond their own individual concerns and work out community solutions which were 'the only solutions with sufficient authority behind them.'

In terms of community solidarity, 'our first shaky steps were at least taken in the right direction: credit facilities under the medium-term support arrangements had been strengthened; community loan machinery had been set up; and assistance had been given twice – to Ireland and Italy.

Despite all this after three crisis years the member states were still as far out of step as ever, he said. Annual inflation rates currently varied from 18.5 per cent to 5 per cent. Balance of payment situations differed sharply from one country to another and growth rates still lagged below their pre-crisis levels.

But in recent months things had been looking up. Gradually member states were coming round to seeing the economic situation in the same way and were showing the same vigour in getting to grips with the inflation problem.

'I have no hesitation in hailing this new convergence of diagnoses and remedies as a factor of great importance, a prelude to genuine common action.'

On the subject of a common energy policy, Mr Ortoli said that the feeble response of member states to calls for a common policy to meet the tremendous challenge now facing the industrialised nations made him wonder whether the peoples of the EEC really did have the determination to guide their own destinies.

'More than anything else we must construct a balanced energy policy, open to outside considerations but solidly organised at home. The community dare not meekly sit back and accept being dependent on the outside world for over 60 per cent of its energy supplies without doing something about the problem.'

On external policy, Mr Ortoli said that testing though it had been for the community's internal development, the crisis had reminded Europe of the international role it had to play. It had begun to realise the benefits that flowed from presenting a united front.

He spoke of the progressive involvement of the community in development aid – the generalised preferences, a start towards financial help, food aid and attempts at the co-ordination of national policies. He also referred to the growing responsibility of the community in the dialogue which had begun on world economic problems, especially those of the third world.

The community's financial aid to developing countries had substantially increased. There was the European development fund, emergency aid, food aid and other forms of assistance for specific purposes. Aid to the developing countries now accounted for a larger share of the community's budget than anything other than the common agricultural policy.

Speaking of European union and the Tindemans report, Mr Ortoli said that he regarded it as a promising sign that despite the crisis, a genuine search for ways and means of strengthening European integration was under way for the first time since the drafting of the treaty of Rome.

In the past four years there had been some highly significant advances. These included the participation of the heads of governments and the president of the commission in the administration of community affairs within the European council which now made it possible to determine the priorities of European policy at the highest level. Although the council still had to improve its procedures and the manner in which its meetings were prepared, the European council had on a number of occasions provided a political impetus which had carried European policy to new heights.

The second major step forward was that the elections of the European parliament by universal suffrage, envisaged throughout the 25 years of the treaties of Paris and Rome, had finally been approved. This would be an opportunity for the people of Europe to debate Europe's procedures and powers and for the political parties to draw up European political platforms.

Turning to the commission, Mr Ortoli said that at the end of four years 'we shall not be leaving an enfeebled commission behind us.'

The commission was playing a fully-fledged part in the work of the council, as initiator, catalyst and guarantor. There were limits which the commission could not overstep, but these were the limits imposed by the treaty.

'The commission shares in the government of Europe; it is not the government of Europe. Our institutions must live with their constraints for a long time yet. We must recognise these constraints and strive with might and main to confine their effects.'

Agriculture ministers agree to improved beef regime

EEC agriculture ministers have agreed to much improved arrangements for beef imports.

Reporting on the council of agriculture ministers meeting on 21 and 22 December, John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food told the Commons on 23 December that after the last council he had withheld agreement to the commission's proposal on beef imports until more liberal arrangements were accepted both for 1977 and the longer term. The council had now agreed to much improved arrangements.

From 1 April the council agreed to remove the safeguard clause – a ban on beef imports from outside the community except under special arrangements. It would be replaced by a new permanent import regime. Levies both on fresh and frozen beef would be progressively dismantled when prices rose and beef was needed. Even when prices were low, Mr Silkin said, the level would not rise above a level 10 per cent below the commission's proposal.

Also from 1 April, there would be provision for community imports in 1977 of 75,000 tonnes of beef for manufacture at a reduced or nil levy of which 25,000 tonnes would be for corned beef manufacture.

'For the first three months of 1977', Mr Silkin continued, 'before these arrangements come into effect, we have negotiated substantial improvements, both on canned and boneless beef' in the *jumelage* scheme, which allows for imports linked with purchases of intervention beef.

He said that the UK share of the 1977 Gatt import quota on which no levy is paid was being increased to 12,750 tonnes. The UK was the only country to receive an increase.

Mr Silkin said that these arrangements would greatly improve the opportunity to obtain beef from abroad next year. This would help the trader and the housewife.

'The commission and other member states,' Mr Silkin said, 'again pressed me to make an immediate devaluation of the green pound. I resisted this. At the request of the Irish government the representative rate for the Irish pound is being devalued by 8 per cent.' Mr Silkin told the Commons that he asked for and obtained the council's endorsement of the meat industry employment subsidy which the government has found it necessary to pay in Northern Ireland.

The council had agreed on the proposed regulation on community aid for processing and marketing. This would make available about £165 million over five years within the community for improvements in the processing and marketing of agricultural products and fish. 'I believe,' Mr Silkin said, 'that this will be helpful to investment in our food industry and that the housewife will gain from lower costs and improved quality in an already efficient sector of industry.'

The Commons heard that no further progress was made on the milk action programme. Some member states could only agree to the proposals of the tax on vegetable and marine fats and oils were included. 'I made it clear,' Mr Silkin said, 'that this tax was not a necessary part of the package and was totally unacceptable to us. Other member states supported my view. I also restated our opposition to the proposed ban on investment aids and the commission's proposal on "exclusive use". All the proposals will now be reconsidered under the United Kingdom presidency.'

The council have agreed to an amended directive on health control of meat products in intra-community trade. At the request of the UK all references to veterinary supervision had been deleted. Mr Silkin concluded, 'We shall continue with our present arrangements for the allocation of responsibilities between veterinarians and environmental health officers.'

Company capital: ministers adopt the second directive

The EEC council of ministers adopted the second directive on the harmonisation of company law on 13 December. The aims of the directive are to regulate the formation of public companies and the maintenance and alteration of their capital.

The text of the directive is published below. It will apply to all UK public companies and will have to be incorporated in UK law within the next two years. Its provisions are minimum requirements. In some articles it is permissive, and where this is so there is clearly no requirement to incorporate that particular article in UK law.

Article 1

1 The co-ordination measures prescribed by this Directive shall apply to the provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States relating to the following types of company:

in Belgium: la société anonyme/de naamloze vennootschap
in Denmark: aktieselskabet
in France: la société anonyme
in Germany: die Aktiengesellschaft
in Ireland: the public company limited by shares, the public company limited by guarantee and having a share capital
in Italy: la società per azioni
in Luxembourg: la société anonyme
in the Netherlands: de naamloze vennootschap
in the United Kingdom: the public company limited by shares, the public company limited by guarantee and having a share capital.

The name for any company of the above types shall comprise or be accompanied by a description which is distinct from the description required of other types of companies.

2 The Member States may decide not to apply this Directive to investment companies with variable capital and to co-operatives incorporated as one of the types of company listed in paragraph 1. Insofar as the laws of the Member States make use of this option, they shall require such companies to include the words 'investment company with variable capital' or 'co-operative' in all documents indicated in Article 4 of Directive 68/151/EEC.

The expression 'investment company with variable capital,' within the meaning of this Directive, means only those companies:

the exclusive object of which is to invest their funds in various stocks and shares, land or other assets with the sole aim of spreading investment risks and giving their shareholders the benefit of the results of the management of their assets,
which offer their own shares for subscription by the public, and
the statutes of which provide that, within the limits of a minimum and maximum capital, they may at any time issue, redeem or resell their shares.

Article 2

The statutes or the instrument of incorporation of the company shall always give at least the following information:

a the type and name of the company;
b the objects of the company;
c when the company has no authorised capital, the amount of the subscribed capital;
when the company has an authorised capital, the amount thereof and also the amount of the capital subscribed at the time the company is incorporated or is authorised to commence business, and at the time of any change in the authorised capital, without prejudice to Article 2(1)(e) of Directive 68/151/EEC;
d insofar as they are not legally determined, the rules governing the number of and the procedure for appointing members of the bodies responsible for representing the company with regard to third parties, administration, management, supervision or control of the company and the allocation of powers among those bodies;
e the duration of the company, except where this is indefinite.

Article 3

The following information at least must appear in either the statutes or the instrument of incorporation or a separate document published in accordance with the procedure laid down in the laws of each Member State in accordance with Article 3 of Directive 68/151/EEC:

a the registered office;
b the nominal value of the shares subscribed and, at least once a year, the number thereof;
c the number of shares subscribed without stating the nominal value, where such shares may be issued under national law;
d the special conditions if any limiting the transfer of shares;
e where there are several classes of shares, the information under b, c and d for each class and the rights attaching to the shares of each class;
f whether the shares are registered or bearer, where national law provides for both types, and any provisions relating to the conversion of such shares unless the procedure is laid down by law;
g the amount of the subscribed capital paid up at the time the company is incorporated or is authorised to commence business;
h the nominal value of the shares or, where there is no nominal value, the number of shares issued for a consideration other than in cash, together with the nature of the consideration and the name of the person providing this consideration;
i the identity of the natural or legal persons or companies or firms by whom or in whose name the statutes or the instrument of incorporation, or where the company was not formed at the same time, the drafts of these documents, have been signed;
j the total amount, or at least an estimate, of all the costs payable by the company or chargeable to it by reason of its formation and, where appropriate, before the company is authorised to commence business;
k any special advantage granted, at the time the company is formed or up to the time it receives authorisation to commence business, to anyone who has taken part in the formation of the company or in transactions leading to the grant of such authorisation.

Article 4

1 Where the laws of a Member State prescribe that a company may not commence business without authorisation, they shall also make provision for responsibility for liabilities incurred by or on behalf of the company during the period before such authorisation is granted or refused.

2 Paragraph 1 shall not apply to liabilities under contracts concluded by the company conditionally upon its being granted authorisation to commence business.

Article 5

1 Where the laws of a Member State require a company to be formed by more than one member, the fact that all the shares are held by one person or that the number of members has fallen below the legal minimum after incorporation of the company shall not lead to the automatic dissolution of the company.

2 If the cases referred to in paragraph 1, the laws of a Member State permit the company to be wound up by order of the court, the judge having jurisdiction must be able to give the company sufficient time to regularise its position.

3 Where such a winding up order is made the company shall enter into liquidation.

Article 6

1 The laws of the Member States shall require that, in order that a company may be incorporated or obtain authorisation to commence business, a minimum capital shall be subscribed the amount of which shall be not less than 25,000 European units of account.

The European unit of account shall be that defined by Commission Decision No 3289/75/ECSC. The equivalent in national currency shall be calculated initially at the rate applicable on the date of adoption of this Directive.

2 If the equivalent of the European unit of account in national currency is altered so that the value of the minimum capital in national currency remains less than 22,500 European units of account for a period of one year, the Commission shall inform the Member State concerned that is must amend its legislation to comply with paragraph 1 within twelve months following the expiry of that period. However, the Member State may provide that the amended legislation shall not apply to companies already in existence until eighteen months after its entry into force.

3 Every five years the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, shall examine and, if need be, revise the amounts expressed in this Article in European units of account in the light of economic and monetary trends in the Community and of the tendency towards allowing only large and medium-sized undertakings to opt for the types of company listed in Article 1(1).

Article 7

The subscribed capital may be found only of assets capable of economic assessment. However, an undertaking to perform work or supply services may not form part of these assets.

Article 8

1 Shares may not be issued at a price lower than their nominal value or, where there is no nominal value, their accountable par.

2 However, Member States may allow those who undertake to place shares in the exercise of their profession to pay less than the total price of the shares for which they subscribe in the course of this transaction.

Article 9

1 Shares issued for a consideration must be paid up at the time the company is incorporated or is authorised to commence business at not less than 25% of their nominal value or, in the absence of a nominal value, their accountable par.

2 However, where shares are issued for a consideration other than in cash at the time the company is incorporated or is authorised to commence business, the consideration must be transferred in full within five years of that time.

Article 10

1 A report on any consideration other than in cash shall be drawn up before the company is incorporated or is authorised to commence business, by one or more independent experts appointed or approved by an administrative or judicial authority. Such experts may be natural persons as well as legal persons and companies or firms under the laws of each Member State.

2 The experts' report shall contain at least a description of each of the assets comprising the consideration as well as of the methods of valuation used and shall state whether the values arrived at by the application of these methods correspond at least to the number and nominal value or, where there is no nominal value, to the accountable par and, where appropriate, to the premium on the shares to be issued for them.

3 The experts' report shall be published in the manner laid down by the laws of each Member State, in accordance with Article 3 of Directive 68/151/EEC.

4 Member States may decide not to apply this Article where 90% of the nominal value, or where there is no nominal value, of the accountable par, of all the shares is issued to one or more companies for a consideration other than in cash, and where the following requirements are met:

a with regard to the company in receipt of such consideration, the persons referred to in Article 3i have agreed to dispense with the expert's report;
b such agreement has been published as provided for in paragraph 3;
c the companies furnishing such consideration have reserves which may not be distributed under the law or the statutes and which are at least equal to the nominal value or, where there is no nominal value, the accountable par of the shares issued for consideration other than in cash;
d the companies furnishing such consideration guarantee, up to an amount equal to that indicated in paragraph c, the debts of the recipient company arising between the time the shares are issued for a consideration other than in cash and one year after the publication of that company's annual accounts for the financial year during which such consideration was furnished. Any transfer of these shares is prohibited within this period;
e the guarantee referred to in d has been published as provided for in paragraph 3;
f the companies furnishing such consideration shall place a sum equal to that indicated in c into a reserve which may not be distributed until three years after publication of the annual accounts of the recipient company for the financial year during which such consideration was furnished or, if necessary, until such later date as all claims relating to the guarantee referred to in d which are submitted during this period have been settled.

Article 11

1 If, before the expiry of a time limit laid down by national law of at least two years from the time the company is incorporated or is authorised to commence business, the company acquires any asset belonging to a person or company or firm referred to in Article 3i for a consideration of not less than 1/10th of the subscribed capital, the acquisition shall be examined and details of it published in the manner provided for in Article 10 and it shall be submitted for the approval of the general meeting.

Member States may also require these provisions to be applied when the assets belong to a shareholder or to any other person.

2 Paragraph 1 shall not apply to acquisitions effected in the normal course of the company's business, to acquisitions effected at the instance or under the supervision of an administrative or judicial authority, or to stock exchange acquisitions.

Article 12

Subject to the provisions relating to the reduction of subscribed capital, the shareholders may not be released from the obligation to pay up their contributions.

Article 13

Pending co-ordination of national laws at a subsequent date, Member States shall adopt the measures necessary to require provision of at least the same safeguards as are laid down in Articles 2 to 12 in the event of the conversion of another type of company into a public limited liability company.

Article 14

Articles 2 to 13 shall not prejudice the provisions of Member States on competence and procedure relating to the modification of the statutes or of the instrument of incorporation.

Article 15

1 a Except for cases of reductions of subscribed capital, no distribution to shareholders may be made when on the closing date of the last financial year the net assets as set out in the company's annual accounts are, or following such a distribution would become, lower than the amount of the subscribed capital plus those reserves which may not be distributed under the law or the statutes.

b Where the uncalled part of the subscribed capital is not included in the assets shown in the balance sheet, this amount shall be deducted from the amount of subscribed capital referred to in paragraph a.

c The amount of a distribution to shareholders may not exceed the amount of the profits at the end of the last financial year plus any profits brought forward and sums drawn from reserves available for this purpose, less any losses brought forward and sums placed to reserve in accordance with the law or the statutes.

d The expression 'distribution' used in subparagraphs a and c includes in particular the payment of dividends and of interest relating to shares.

2 When the laws of a Member State allow the payment of interim dividends, the following conditions at least shall apply:

a interim accounts shall be drawn up showing that the funds available for distribution are sufficient;

b the amount to be distributed may not exceed the total profits made since the end of the last financial year for which the annual accounts have been drawn up, plus any profits brought forward and sums drawn from reserves available for this purpose, less losses brought forward and sums to be placed to reserve pursuant to the requirements of the law or the statutes.

3 Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not affect the provisions of the Member States as regards increases in subscribed capital by capitalisation of reserves.

4 The laws of a Member State may provide for derogations from paragraph 1a in the case of investment companies with fixed capital.

The expression 'investment company with fixed capital,' within the meaning of this paragraph means only those companies:

the exclusive object of which is to invest their funds in various stocks and shares, land or other assets with the sole aim of spreading investment risks and giving their shareholders the benefit of the results of the management of their assets and

which offer their own shares for subscription by the public.

Insofar as the laws of Member States make use of this option they shall:

a require such companies to include the expression 'investment company' in all documents indicated in Article 4 of Directive 68/151/EEC;

b not permit any such company whose net assets fall below the amount specified in paragraph 1a to make a distribution to shareholders when on the closing date of the last financial year the company's total assets as set out in the annual accounts are, or following such distribution would become, less than one and a half times the amount of the company's total liabilities to creditors as set out in the annual accounts;

c require any such company which makes a distribution when its net assets fall below the amount specified in paragraph 1a to include in its annual accounts a note to that effect.

Article 16

Any distribution made contrary to Article 15 must be returned by shareholders who have received it if the company proves that these shareholders knew of the irregularity of the distributions made to them, or could not in view of the circumstances have been unaware of it.

Article 17

1 In the case of a serious loss of the subscribed capital, a general meeting of shareholders must be called within the period laid down by the laws of the Member States, to consider whether the company should be wound up or any other measures taken.

2 The amount of a loss deemed to be serious within the meaning of paragraph 1 may not be set by the laws of Member States at a figure higher than half the subscribed capital.

Article 18

1 The shares of a company may not be subscribed for by the company itself.

2 If the shares of a company have been subscribed for by a person acting in his own name, but on behalf of the company, the subscriber shall be deemed to have subscribed for them for his own account.

3 The persons or companies or firms referred to in Article 3i or, in cases of an increase in subscribed capital, the members of the administrative or management body shall be liable to pay for shares subscribed in contravention of this Article.

However, the laws of a Member State may provide that any such person may be released from his obligation if he proves that no fault is attributable to him personally.

Article 19

1 Where the laws of a Member State permit a company to acquire its own shares, either itself or through a person acting in his own name but on the company's behalf, they shall make such acquisitions subject to at least the following conditions:

a authorisation shall be given by the general meeting, which shall determine the terms and conditions of such acquisitions, and in particular the maximum number of shares to be acquired, the duration of the period for which the authorisation is given and which may not exceed eighteen months, and, in the case of acquisition for value, the maximum and minimum consideration. Members of the administrative or management body shall be required to satisfy themselves that at the time when each authorised acquisition is effected the conditions referred to in subparagraphs b, c and d are respected;

b the nominal value or, in the absence thereof, the accountable par of the acquired shares, including shares previously acquired by the company and held by it, and shares acquired by a person acting in his own name but on the company's behalf, may not exceed 10% of the subscribed capital;

c the acquisitions may not have the effect of reducing the net assets below the amount mentioned in Article 15 1a;

d only fully paid up shares may be included in the transaction.

2 The laws of a Member State may provide for derogations from the first sentence of paragraph 1a where the acquisition of a company's own shares is necessary to prevent serious and imminent harm to the company. In such a case, the next general meeting must be informed by the administrative or management body of the reasons for and nature of the acquisitions effected, of the number and nominal value or, in the absence of a nominal value, the accountable par, of the shares acquired, of the proportion of the subscribed capital which they represent, and of the consideration for these shares.

3 Member States may decide not to apply the first sentence of paragraph 1a to shares acquired by either the company itself or by a person acting in his own name but on the company's behalf, for distribution to that company's employees or to the employees of an associate company. Such shares must be distributed within twelve months of their acquisition.

Article 20

1 Member States may decide not to apply Article 19 to:

a shares acquired in carrying out a decision to reduce capital, or in the circumstances referred to in Article 39;

b shares acquired as a result of a universal transfer of assets;

c fully paid-up shares acquired free of charge or by banks and other financial institutions as purchasing commission;

d shares acquired by virtue of a legal obligation or resulting from a court ruling for the protection of minority shareholders in the event, particularly, of a merger, a change in the company's object or form, transfer abroad of the registered office, or the introduction of restrictions on the transfer of shares;

e shares acquired from a shareholder in the event of failure to pay them up;

f shares acquired in order to indemnify minority shareholders in associated companies;

g fully paid-up shares acquired under a sale enforced by a court order for the payment of a debt owed to the company by the owner of the shares;

h fully paid-up shares issued by an investment company with fixed capital, as defined in the second subparagraph of Article 15(4), and acquired at the investor's request by that company or by an associate company. Article 15(4a) shall apply. These acquisitions may not have the effect of reducing the net assets below the amount of the subscribed capital plus any reserves the distribution of which is forbidden by law.

2 Shares acquired in the cases listed in paragraph 1b to g above must, however, be disposed of within not more than three years of their acquisition unless the nominal value or, in the absence of a nominal value, the accountable par of the shares acquired, including shares which the company may have acquired through a person acting in his own name but on the company's behalf, does not exceed 10% of the subscribed capital.

3 If the shares are not disposed of within the period laid down in paragraph 2, they must be cancelled. The laws of a Member State may make this cancellation subject to a corresponding reduction in the subscribed capital. Such a reduction must be prescribed where the acquisition of shares to be cancelled results in the net assets having fallen below the amount specified in Article 15 1a.

Article 21

Shares acquired in contravention of Articles 19 and 20 shall be disposed of within one year of their acquisition. Should they not be disposed of within that period, Article 20(3) shall apply.

Article 22

1 Where the laws of a Member State permit a company to acquire its own shares, either itself or through a person acting in his own name but on the company's behalf, they shall make the holding of these shares at all times subject to at least the following conditions:

a among the rights attaching to the shares, the right to vote attaching to the company's own shares shall in any event be suspended;

b if the shares are included among the assets shown in the balance-sheet, a reserve of the same amount, unavailable for distribution, shall be included among the liabilities.

2 Where the laws of a Member State permit a company to acquire its own shares, either itself or through a person acting in his own name but on the company's behalf, they shall require the annual report to state at least:

a the reasons for acquisitions made during the financial year;

b the number and nominal value or, in the absence of a nominal value, the accountable par of the shares acquired and disposed of during the financial year and the proportion of the subscribed capital which they represent;

c in the case of acquisition or disposal for a value, the consideration for the shares;

d the number and nominal value or, in the absence of a nominal value, the accountable par of all the shares acquired and held by the company and the proportion of the subscribed capital which they represent.

Article 23

1 A company may not advance funds, nor make loans, nor provide security, with a view to the acquisition of its shares by a third party.

2 Paragraph 1 shall not apply to transactions concluded by banks and other financial institutions in the normal course of business, nor to transactions effected with a view to the acquisition of shares by or for the company's employees or the employees of an associate company. However, these transactions may not have the effect of reducing the net assets below the amount specified in Article 15 (1a).

3 Paragraph 1 shall not apply to transactions effected with a view to the acquisition of shares as described in Article 20 1h.

Article 24

1 The acceptance of the company's own shares as security, either by the company itself or through a person acting in his own name but on the company's behalf, shall be treated as an acquisition for the purposes of Articles 19, 20 (1), 22 and 23.

2 The Member States may decide not to apply paragraph 1 to transactions concluded by banks and other financial institutions in the normal course of business.

Article 25

1 Any increase in capital must be decided upon by the general meeting. Both this decision and the increase in the subscribed capital shall be published in the manner laid down by the laws of each Member State, in accordance with Article 3 of Directive 68/151/EEC.

2 Nevertheless, the statues or instrument of incorporation of the general meeting, the decision of which must be published in accordance with the rules referred to in paragraph 1, may authorise an increase in the subscribed capital up to a maximum amount which they shall fix with due regard for any maximum amount provided for by law. Where appropriate, the increase in the subscribed capital shall be decided on within the limits of the amount fixed, by the company body empowered to do so. The power of such body in this respect shall be for a maximum period of five years and may be renewed one or more times by the general meeting each time for a period not exceeding five years.

3 Where there are several classes of shares, the decision by the general meeting concerning the increase in capital referred to in paragraph 1 or the authorisation to increase the capital referred to in paragraph 2, shall be subject to a separate vote at least for each class of shareholder whose rights are affected by the transaction.

4 This Article shall apply to the issue of all securities which are convertible into shares or which carry the right to subscribe for shares, but not to the conversion of such securities, nor to the exercise of the right to subscribe.

Article 26

Shares issued for a consideration, in the course of an increase in subscribed capital, must be paid up to at least 25% of their nominal value or, in the absence of a nominal value, of their accountable par. Where provision is made for an issue premium, it must be paid in full.

Article 27

1 Where shares are issued for a consideration other than in cash in the course of an increase in the subscribed capital the consideration must be transferred in full within a period of five years from the decision to increase the subscribed capital.

2 The consideration referred to in paragraph 1 shall be the subject of a report drawn up before the increase in capital is made by one or more experts who are independent of the company and appointed or approved by an administrative or judicial authority. Such experts may be natural persons as well as legal persons and companies and firms under the laws of each Member State.

Article 10 (2) and (3) shall apply.

3 Member States may decide not to apply paragraph 2 in the event of an increase in subscribed capital made in order to give effect to a merger or a public offer for the purchase or exchange of shares and to pay the shareholders of the company which is being absorbed or which is the object of the public offer for the purchase or exchange of shares.

4 Member States may decide not to apply paragraph 2 if all the shares issued in the course of an increase in subscribed capital are issued for a consideration other than in cash to one or more companies, on condition that all the shareholders in the company which receive the consideration have agreed not to have an experts' report drawn up and that the requirements of Article 10 4b to f are met.

Article 28

Where an increase in capital is not fully subscribed, the capital will be increased by the amount of the subscriptions received only if the conditions of the issue so provide.

Article 29

1 Whenever the capital is increased by consideration in cash, the shares must be offered on a pre-emptive basis to shareholders in proportion to the capital represented by their shares.

2 The laws of a Member State:

a need not apply paragraph 1 above to shares which carry a limited right to participate in distributions within the meaning of Article 15 and/or in the company's assets in the event of liquidation; or

b may permit, where the subscribed capital of a company having several classes of shares carrying different rights with regard to voting, or participation in in distributions within the meaning of Article 15 or in assets in the event of liquidation, is increased by issuing new shares in only one of these classes, the right of pre-emption of shareholders of the other classes to be exercised only after the exercise of this right by the shareholders of the class in which the new shares are being issued.

3 Any offer of subscription on a pre-emptive basis and the period within which this right must be exercised shall be published in the national gazette appointed in accordance with Directive 68/151/EEC. However, the laws of a Member State need not provide for such publication where all a company's shares are registered. In such case, all the company's shareholders must be informed in writing. The right of pre-emption must be exercised within a period which shall not be less than fourteen days from the date of publication of the offer or from the date of dispetch of the letters to the shareholders.

4 The right of pre-emption may not be restricted or withdrawn by the statutes or instrument of incorporation. This may, however, be done by decision of the general meeting. The administrative or management body shall be required to present to such a meeting a written report indicating the reasons for restriction or withdrawal of the right of pre-emption, and justifying the proposed issue price. The general meeting shall act in accordance with the rules for a quorum and a majority laid down in Article 40. Its decision shall be published iu the manner laid down by the laws of each Member State, in accordance with Article 3 of Directive 68/151/EEC.

5 The laws of a Member State may provide that the statutes, the instrument of incorporation or the general meeting, acting in accordance with the rules for a quorum, a majority and publication set out in paragraph 4, may give the power to restrict or withdraw the right of pre-emption to the company body which is empowered to decide on an increase in subscribed capital within the limits of the authorised capital. This power may not be granted for a longer period than the power for which provision is made in Article 25(2).

6 Paragraphs 1 to 5 shall apply to the issue of all securities which are convertible into shares or which carry the right to subscribe for shares, but not to the conversion of such securities, nor to the exercise of the right to subscribe.

7 The right of pre-emption is not excluded for the purposes of paragraphs 4 and 5 where, in accordance with the decision to increase the subscribed capital, shares are issued to banks or other financial institutions with a view to their being offered to shareholders of the company in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 3.

Article 30

Any reduction in the subscribed capital, except under a court order, must be subject at least to a decision of the general meeting acting in accordance with the rules for a quorum and a majority laid down in Article 40 without prejudice to Articles 36 and 37. Such decision shall be published in the manner laid down by the laws of each Member State in accordance with Article 3 of Directive 68/151/EEC.

The notice convening the meeting must specify at least the purpose of the reduction and the way in which it is to be carried out.

Article 31

Where there are several classes of shares, the decision by the general meeting concerning a reduction in the subscribed capital shall be subject to a separate vote, at least for each class of shareholders whose rights are affected by the transaction.

Article 32

1 In the event of a reduction in the subscribed capital, at least the creditors whose claims antedate the publication of the decision to make the reduction shall be entitled at least to have the right to obtain security for claims which have not fallen due by the date of that publication. The laws of a Member State shall lay down the conditions for the exercise of this right. They may not set aside such right unless the creditor has adequate safeguards, or unless the latter are not necessary in view of the assets of the company.

2 The laws of the Member States shall also stipulate at least that the reduction shall be void or that no payment may be made for the benefit of the shareholders, until the creditors have obtained satisfaction or a court has decided that their application should not be acceded to.

3 This Article shall apply where the reduction in the subscribed capital is brought about by the total or partial waiving of the payment of the balance of the shareholders' contributions.

Article 33

1 Member States need not apply Article 32 to a reduction in the subscribed capital whose purpose is to offset losses incurred or to include sums of money in a reserve provided that, following this operation, the amount of such reserve is not more than 10% of the reduced subscribed capital. Except in the event of a reduction in the subscribed capital, this reserve may not be distributed to shareholders; it may be used only for offsetting losses incurred or for increasing the subscribed capital by the capitalisation of such reserve, insofar as the Member States permit such an operation.

2 In the cases referred to in paragraph 1 the laws of the Member States must at least provide for the measures necessary to ensure that the amounts deriving from the reduction of subscribed capital may not be used for making payments or distributions to shareholders or discharging shareholders from the obligation to make their contributions.

Article 34

The subscribed capital may not be reduced to an amount less than the minimum capital laid down in accordance with Article 6. However, Member States may permit such a reduction if they also provide that the decision to reduce the subscribed capital may take effect only when the subscribed capital is increased to an amount at least equal to the prescribed minimum.

Article 35

Where the laws of a Member State authorise total or partial redemption of the subscribed capital without reduction of the latter, they shall at least require that the following conditions are observed:

a where the statutes or instrument of incorporation provide for redemption, the latter shall be decided on by the general meeting voting at least under the usual conditions of quorum and majority. Where the statutes or instrument of incorporation do not provide for redemption, the latter shall be decided upon by the general meeting acting at least under the conditions of quorum and majority laid down in Article 40. The decision must be published in the manner prescribed by the laws of each Member State, in accordance with Article 3 of Directive 68/151/EEC;

b only sums which are available for distribution within the meaning of Article 15(1) may be used for redemption purposes;

c shareholders whose shares are redeemed shall retain their rights in the company, with the exception of their rights to the repayment of their investment and participation in the distribution of an initial dividend on unredeemed shares.

Article 36

1 Where the laws of a Member State may allow companies to reduce their subscribed capital by compulsory withdrawal of shares, they shall require that at least the following conditions are observed:

a compulsory withdrawal must be prescribed or authorised by the statutes or instrument of incorporation before subscription of the shares which are to be withdrawn are subscribed for;

b where the compulsory withdrawal is merely authorised by the statutes or instrument of incorporation, it shall be decided upon by the general meeting unless it has been unanimously approved by the shareholders concerned;

c the company body deciding on the compulsory withdrawal shall fix the terms and manner thereof, where they have not already been fixed by the statutes or instrument of incorporation;

d Article 32 shall apply except in the case of fully paid-up shares which are made available to the company free of charge or are withdrawn using sums available for distribution in accordance with Article 15(1): in these cases, an amount equal to the nominal value or, in the absence thereof, to the accountable par of all the withdrawn shares must be included in a reserve. Except in the event of a reduction in the subscribed capital this reserve may not be distributed to shareholders. It can be used only for offsetting losses incurred or for increasing the subscribed capital by the capitalisation of such reserve, insofar as Member States permit such an operation;

e the decision on compulsory withdrawal shall be published in the manner laid down by the laws of each Member State in accordance with Article 3 of Directive 68/151/EEC.

2 Articles 30(1), 31, 33 and 40 shall not apply to the cases to which paragraph 1 refers.

Article 37

1 In the case of a reduction in the subscribed capital by the withdrawal of shares acquired by the company itself or by a person acting in his own name but on behalf of the company, the withdrawal must always be decided on by the general meeting.

2 Article 32 shall apply unless the shares are fully paid-up and are acquired free of charge or using sums available for distribution in accordance with Article 15(1); in these cases an amount equal to the nominal value or, in the absence thereof, to the accountable par of all the shares withdrawn must be included in a reserve. Except in the event of a reduction in the subscribed capital, this reserve may not be distributed to shareholders. It may be used only for offsetting losses incurred or for increasing the subscribed capital by the capitalisation of such reserve, insofar as the Member States permit such an operation.

3 Articles 31, 33 and 40 shall not apply to the cases to which paragraph 1 refers.

Article 38

In the cases covered by Articles 35, 36(1b) and 37(1) when there are several classes of shares, the decision by the general meeting concerning redemption of the subscribed capital or its reduction by withdrawal of shares shall be subject to a separate vote, at least for each class of shareholders whose rights are affected by the transaction.

Article 39

Where the laws of a Member State authorise companies to issue redeemable shares, they shall require that the following conditions, at least, are complied with for the redemption of such shares:

a redemption must be authorised by the company's statutes or instrument of incorporation before the redeemable shares are subscribed for;

b the shares must be fully paid up;

c the terms and the manner of redemption must be laid down in the company's statutes or instrument of incorporation;

d redemption can be only effected by using sums available for distribution in accordance with Article 15(1) or the proceeds of a new issue made with a view to effecting such redemption;

e an amount equal to the nominal value or, in the absence thereof, to the accountable par of all the redeemed shares must be included in a reserve which cannot be distributed to the shareholders, except in the event of a reduction in the subscribed capital; it may be used only for the purpose of increasing the subscribed capital by the capitalisation of reserves.

f subparagraph e shall not apply to redemption using the proceeds of a new issue made with a view to effecting such redemption;

g where provision is made for the payment of a premium to shareholders in consequence of a redemption, the premium may be paid only from sums available for distribution in accordance with Article 15(1), or from a reserve other than that referred to in e which may not be distributed to shareholders except in the event of a reduction in the subscribed capital; this reserve may be used only for the purposes of increasing the subscribed capital by the capitalization of reserves or for covering the costs referred to in Article 3j or the cost of issuing shares or debentures or for the payment of a premium to holders of redeemable shares or debentures.

h notification of redemption shall be published in the manner laid down by the laws of each Member State in accordance with Article 3 of Directive 68/151/EEC.

Article 40

1 The laws of the Member States shall provide that the decisions referred to in Articles 29(4) and (5), 30, 31, 35 and 38 must be taken at least by a majority of not less than two thirds of the votes attaching to the securities or the subscribed capital represented.

2 The laws of the Member States may, however, lay down that a simple majority of the votes specified in paragraph 1 is sufficient when at least half the subscribed capital is represented.

Article 41

1 Member States may derogate from Article 9(1), Article 19(1a), first sentence, and b and from Articles 25, 26 and 29 to the extent that such derogations are necessary for the adoption or application of provisions designed to encourage the participation of employees, or other groups of persons defined by national law, in the capital of undertakings.

2 Member States may decide not to apply Article 19(1a), first sentence, and Articles 30, 31, 36, 37, 38 and 39 to companies incorporated under a special law which issue both capital shares and workers' shares, the latter being issued to the company's employees as a body, who are represented at general meetings of shareholders by delegates having the right to vote.

Article 42

For the purposes of the implementation of this Directive, the laws of the Member States shall ensure equal treatment to all shareholders who are in the same position.

Article 43

1 Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions needed in order to comply with this Directive within two years of its notification. They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.

2 Member States may decide not to apply Article 3g, i, j and k to companies already in existence at the date of entry into force of the provisions referred to in paragraph 1.

They may provide that the other provisions of this Directive shall not apply to such companies until eighteen months after that date.

However, this time limit may be three years in the case of Articles 6 and 9 and five years in the case of unregistered companies in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

3 Member States shall ensure that they communicate to the Commission the text of the main provisions of national law which they adopt in the field covered by this Directive.

Rules of competition

The *Official Journal of the European Communities*, C292 of 11 December 1976, contains a notice pursuant to council regulation 17 of 1962 concerning the notification to the European commission on 2 March 1973 by Stork Roterende Werktuigen BV, Netherlands, a wholly-owned subsidiary to Koninklijke Machinefabrieken Stork BV, of a number of agreements entered into in 1971 with Del Laval Turbine International Inc, United States, relating to the formation of a joint subsidiary, De Laval-Stork. The activities of De Laval-Stork relate to research, manufacture, sales and maintenance of steam turbines, compressors and pumps.

Two know-how licensing agreements were also concluded at the same time. The agreements are royalty-free and exclusive provided that both customers and the place in which the relevant goods are manufactured are within the licensed territory, which includes the EEC, most other western European countries, the Middle East, and for some products, South Africa.

Subject to certain conditions the commission intends to take a favourable decision but before doing so it invites interested third parties to send their comments within one month from 11 December 1976 quoting reference IV/27.093 to Commission of the European Communities, Directorate-General for Competition, Directorate for Restrictive Practices and Abuse of Dominant Positions, rue de la Loi, 200, 1049 Brussels, Belgium.

Further information: Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Fair Trading Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 5092.

General agreement reached on youth employment

There was general agreement on the analyses and guidelines contained in a commission document on youth employment at the meeting of the Standing Committee on Employment in Brussels on 13 December. The commission's paper outlines the nature and dimensions of the problem, considers specific measures already introduced to promote youth employment and policies and measures which might contribute to alleviating unemployment.

The committee emphasised that the problem of unemployment of young people is part of the problem of unemployment in general. And although the need for specific measures for young people, especially the most vulnerable categories (eg young people without training; and young women) was reaffirmed, it was made clear that such measures should fall within a general context and not be to the detriment of other categories also affected by the present unemployment problem.

The committee noted the commission's intention of carrying out a more comprehensive analysis and formulating more detailed guidelines in the near future, with a view to making a contribution to the discussion on the matter at the next council meeting on social affairs.

Co-ordination of community financial resources

The committee discussed the co-ordination of community financial resources on the basis of a communication from the European Trade Union Confederation.

After noting the conclusions reached on this matter by the European council on 29 and 30 November, delegates acknowledged that there was an all-round need for further information on the way in which the commission could ensure such co-ordination. They welcomed the commission's statement to the effect that it proposed submitting the results of its studies on the subject to the bodies concerned, including the committee, within the next few months.

Tripartite conference

Delegates also discussed the follow-up to the tripartite conference held in Luxembourg on 24 June, with particular reference to employment prospects.

On the basis of a factual note from the commission, which recalled the objectives agreed at the conference and also reported on the consultations held in the meantime or planned for the near future, the committee noted that the present situation was nevertheless still disquieting, particularly with regard to inflation and employment.

At the end of the discussions, the committee agreed to encourage the commission to extend the consultations already initiated between both sides of industry and representatives of the member states so that the two sides of industry would be more closely associated with the co-ordinated attainment of the objectives of the tripartite conference in Luxembourg. In this connection it noted that the commission intended, when the time was ripe, to have the Standing Committee on Employment discuss progress on the report on employment prospects between now and 1980 which forms part of the medium-term economic policy programme, with the particular aim of ensuring greater integration of employment policy in general economic policy.

New community steel association formed

Leaders of European community steel industries met in Amsterdam on 9 December to form the new association of steel industries known as Eurofer.

Jaques Ferry, president of the French steel producers federation was elected to be the first chairman of Eurofer. The UK has three members on the board, Sir Charles Villiers and Robert Scholey of the British Steel Corporation and Alec Mortimer of the British Independent Steel Producers Association.

Eurofer which is to replace the existing Club des Sidérurgistes, is designed to facilitate co-operation between national steel associations and firms and to represent their common interests in particular vis-a-vis the commission. Dr Dieter Spethmann, acting chairman of the Club des Sidérurgistes will be responsible for the changeover and will also act as chairman of Eurofer until Mr Ferry takes over.

EEC-Argentine agreement

A trade agreement between the EEC and the Argentine was concluded on 14 December in the form of an exchange of letters extending the existing agreement for one year from 1 January.

This affects trade in certain of the products covered by the common customs tariff heading 02.01 A (meat of bovine animals, horses, asses and mules) and 02.06 A (horsemeat salted in brine or dried).

EEC: First insurance intermediaries directive adopted

A directive introducing transitional measures to facilitate the exercise of freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services for insurance agents and brokers was adopted by the council of ministers on 13 December.

The directive is the first to be adopted by the EEC in respect of insurance intermediaries. Insurance brokers, insurance agents, and insurance sub-agents who are EEC nationals and self employed or in certain circumstances, paid employees, will now be able to operate on an establishment or services basis throughout the EEC – including those countries which require professional or other qualifications – as long as they have been in the business in one member state for a specified number of years and can prove, if required, that they are of good repute.

For insurance agents and brokers the time limits involved are four consecutive years in an independent or managerial capacity; or two consecutive years in an independent or managerial capacity where the beneficiary can prove that he has worked for at least more than three years with one or more insurance agents or brokers or with one or more insurance undertakings; or one year in an independent or managerial capacity where the beneficiary can prove that for the activity in question he has received previous training attested by a certificate recognised by the state or regarded by a competent professional body as fully satisfying its requirements.

For insurance brokers where the host country has more stringent requirements for brokers than it does for agents, it may require the time-period set out above to have been spent in the broking profession itself. In addition, in the Netherlands, the candidate will be subject to certain additional conditions: he must have been in charge of at least ten employees, five employees or two depending on whether he

wishes to work as a 'makelaar', an 'assurantiebezorger', or an 'erkend assurantitagent' respectively.

For insurance sub-agents, the time limits are two consecutive years either in an independent capacity or working with one or more insurance agents or brokers or with one or more insurance undertakings; or one year under the same conditions above, where the beneficiary can prove that for the activity in question he has received previous training attested by a certificate recognised by the state or regarded by a competent professional body as fully satisfying its requirements.

The pursuit for at least one year of the activity of either insurance broker or insurance agent and receipt of the relevant attested training should be regarded as satisfying the requirements laid down in the previous paragraph.

Pursuit of the activity in question must not have ceased more than 10 years before the date of application for recognition under the directive.

Before operating in another state which has professional or other requirements, the applicant must provide a certificate of experience proving that he complies with the conditions set out in the preceding paragraphs. This evidence must take the form of a certificate issued by the competent authority or body in the member state of origin or member state whence the person concerned comes. For the United Kingdom, the compenent body is the Certificate of Experience Unit, Europe, Industry and Technology Division, Department of Trade, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1, tel. 01-215 7877. Application forms, which must be completed by beneficiaries wishing to obtain a certificate, can be obtained from that division.

Where the host country requires proof of good repute or proof that an applicant has not been declared bankrupt, the applicant must produce a declaration on oath before a competent judicial or administrative authority or notary. If a host country requires proof of a financial standing, then a bank certificate must be produced.

The directive will come into force some time in June/July 1978; the specific day has not yet been fixed.

Further inquiries should be addressed to Miss S. E. Harding, Insurance Division, Department of Trade, Sanctuary Buildings, 16-20 Great Smith Street, London SW1.

Directive on marketing of straight feedingstuffs adopted

A directive on the marketing of straight animal feedingstuffs was adopted by the council of ministers at its meeting on 22 and 23 November.

This directive, which is to be brought into force by member states on 1 January 1979, provides for common names and descriptions for certain straight feedingstuffs, certain compulsory declarations – protein, oil and fibre for example – together with additional optional declarations and compositional standards which member states may include in their national legislation if they so wish. Straight feedingstuffs complying with such provisions will be permitted unhindered access to all member states.

Agricultural departments will, in due course, be consulting consumer, enforcement and trade interests on proposals for implementing this directive in UK feedingstuffs legislation.

The directive will be published shortly in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, obtainable from HMSO.

EEC scientific committee for animal feedingstuffs

The European commission has established a scientific committee for animal feedingstuffs to give impartial advice in the context of feedingstuffs legislation on scientific and technical questions relating to the nutrition and health of animals, and the quality and wholesomeness of animal products.

Professor D. G. Armstrong and Dr. K. L. Robinson of the UK, have been appointed as members of the committee, and Dr Robinson has been elected as one of the committee's two vice-chairmen.

The committee may be consulted by the commission on scientific and technical questions relating to the nutrition and health of animals as well as the quality and wholesomeness of animal products. In particular, the committee may be consulted on questions concerning the composition of feedingstuffs, processes which are liable to affect the character of feedingstuffs, additives in feedingstuffs and substances and products which may be considered undesirable in feedingstuffs. The committee may draw the attention of the commission to any such problem.

EIB loan for North Sea oil field . . .

A loan of US$ 30 million (27 million units of account has been provided by the European Investment Bank for development of the Thistle oil field, 200km to the north-east of the Shetland Islands in the British sector of the North Sea.

The loan, which is for seven years at an interest rate of 8⅜ per cent, has been made to Santa Fe Minerals (UK) Inc – part of the US group Santa Fe International Corporation – which has a 21.7 per cent interest in the consortium which is developing the Thistle Field.

It will help to finance the purchase of a steel production platform, the drilling of up to 60 production and injection wells and the construction of a mooring buoy for loading the crude oil into tankers during the initial phase of production. The field will be connected later to the Brent pipeline system which will carry oil from several fields to the Sullom Voe terminal in the Shetlands; part of the loan goes to meet Santa Fe's contribution to the construction costs.

. . . and for hydro-electric power in Ghana

Under the terms of the Lomé convention, the EIB has provided a loan to the equivalent of 10 million units of account (12.8 million Ghanaian Cedi) to help to finance the construction of a dam and hydro-electric power station on the lower Volta River in Ghana.

The loan has been granted to the Volta River Authority for 15 years; the interest rate is 6.5 per cent, after deduction of a 3 per cent interest rebate, paid from the resources of the European development fund, as provided for under the convention. The loan is to be guaranteed by the Republic of Ghana.

The Volta River Authority, a public body established by legislation in 1961, is charged with developing the electric power and other resources of the Volta River and the Volta Lake.

A dam and power station (installed capacity 912 MW) are already in operation at Akosombo on the Volta River. The new project is situated 24 km down-stream and the hydro-electric plant to be installed there will add a further 160 MW to the installed capacity of the authority.

This is expected to be enough to cover Ghana's electricity requirements until about 1985 and also allow the authority to continue the export of electrical power to Ghana's neighbouring countries, Togo and Benin.

The total cost of the project, which is expected to be completed by the summer of 1981, is estimated at about 243 mua. Part of this will be met by the Volta River Authority from its own resources; in addition the financing plan envisages contributions from the European development fund, the World Bank, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Saudi Development Fund, the Kuwait Development Fund and the Canadian International Development Agency.

EEC generalised tariff preference scheme for developing countries – 1977

General information on the generalised tariff preference scheme (GSP) for 1977, which was adopted by the European Council on 13 December 1976, was given in *Trade and Industry*, 17 December (page 792). Full details of the scheme have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* L349, 20 December 1976, copies of which may be obtained from HM Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1, 01-928 6977 ext. 365.

Overseas trade news

South African steel: emergency duty imposed to protect UK industry

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade imposed on 21 December a provisional anti-dumping duty of £38 per tonne on imports of South African steel reinforcing bars.

Mr Dell said that the UK industry presented the Department with clear prima facie evidence that South African steel reinforcing bars were being dumped on the UK market and further imports were likely in the very near future. He was therefore imposing a provisional charge pending a full investigation of these allegations of dumping.

He re-affirmed the government's intention to be tough on unfair imports when presented with prima facie evidence of dumping. If such imports posed an immediate threat of material injury to UK industry, he was prepared to impose charges at once. In this case there was evidence that goods were on the high seas. By quick action, the government had prevented further damage to the UK industry.

'I am able to take this action,' Mr Dell said, 'because of a speedy and concerted effort by my department in response to an approach to them by the industry backed up with the clear evidence required by law.'

The order* imposing the provisional charge to anti-dumping duty on imports of steel reinforcing bars in straight lengths from the Republic of Southern Africa – reinforcing coil and wire rod are not involved – came into effect on 24 December.

The provisional charge will be imposed for three months from 24 December while the Department of Trade conducts a full investigation into the allegations of dumping. If the allegations are upheld, the provisional charge will be replaced by a substantive anti-dumping duty. If they are not, the provisional charge will be lifted and the money (deposited with Customs and Excise) returned to the importers.

A provisional charge is not a duty as such, but a security in the form of a cash deposit which will be required from importers or their authorised agents by Customs and Excise for the payment of any definitive anti-dumping duty which may be subsequently imposed.

Such a definitive anti-dumping duty may be made retrospective to the date of imposition of the provisional charge but not before, and the rate of any retrospective duty cannot be higher than the provisional charge.

If an order imposing a retrospective duty is not made before the provisional charge lapses or is revoked, the deposits will be returned. If such an order is made, the deposits will be set off against the duty. If the period or rate of the retrospective duty is less than that of the provisional charge, the appropriate repayments will be made.

A statement of the applicants' case will be supplied to interested parties who give an undertaking to treat the information in strict confidence. Any representations should be submitted in writing not later than 28 January 1977. Such representations in summarised form and without attribution to the source may be passed to the applicants for comment. Those making representations should stipulate any particular matters which they do not wish to be disclosed. Requests for copies of this statement together with an undertaking in the terms set out above should be sent in writing to General Division, Department of Trade, Room 348, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

*Copies of the order imposing these charges will be available from HMSO, 49 High Holborn, London WC1 or by post from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1.

Over 1200 companies are already taking part in Export Year. But there is still plenty of time to join them. Write to or phone the Export Year Office, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1 0ET. Tel. 01-215 5180/3393/5773.

Licensing arrangements for non-alloy ferrous scrap exports to non-EEC countries

The quota for exports under licence of non-alloy ferrous scrap to countries outside the European community in the first quarter of 1977 beginning 1 January will be 90,000 tonnes. This is an increase from 75,000 tonnes in the fourth quarter of 1976, which takes into account the current slackness in the UK market for scrap.

Details of the arrangements for licensing exports were announced in *Trade and Industry*, 24 December 1976.

Trade inquiries should be addressed to the Department of Trade, Export Licensing Branch, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB.

Target Mid-west for Cardiff mission

The mid-west of United States is the target for a Cardiff Chamber of Commerce and Industry mission in September.

The itinerary will probably include Cleveland, Pittsburgh, St Louis, Kansas City and Dallas.

Further details of the mission can be obtained from The Cardiff Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 101-108 The Exchange, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff CF1 6RD, tel. Cardiff (0222) 21648.

British pavilion planned for Israel trade fair

The Department of Trade is sponsoring a British pavilion at the international trade fair Technology '77 which will take place in Tel Aviv from 8 to 15 June 1977. The usual advantages of such sponsored exhibitions will apply and the closing date for space applications will be 18 January 1977. Further information from: Fairs and Promotions Branch, Department of Trade, Hillgate House, 26 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 571 *or* British Overseas Trade Group for Israel, Michael House, Baker Street, London W1A 1DN, tel. 01-395 4422 ext. 7477.

No dumping of Brazilian ophthalmic lenses

An investigation (see *Trade and Industry*, 16 July, p. 185) into the allegation that white glass, single vision, lenses for spectacles originating in Brazil were being imported at prices which constituted dumping has been completed by the Department of Trade.

The Department has concluded that there is no evidence of dumping.

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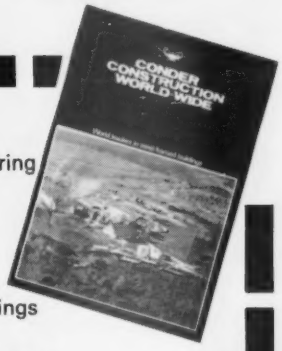

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ECGD general purpose lines of credit

The table below lists lines of credit guaranteed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department under which there is capacity for further export business to be financed as at December 1976.

Departmental reference	Tel. ext. at ECGD HQ	Recipient country	Borrower	UK bank	Purpose	Loan value £m	Minimum single contract value £000's	Final date for entering into contracts
LC 499	598	Brazil	Banco Nacional do Desenvolvimento Economico	Lloyds Bank International	Capital and semi-capital goods and associated services and project business	20	100	6 May 1978
LC 612	7575	Bulgaria	Foreign Trade Bank	Lloyds Bank	Capital goods and associated services	1	5	30 April 1977
LC 381	7575	Czechoslovakia	Ceskoslovenska Obchodni Banka AS	Lloyds Bank	UK capital goods and associated UK services	2	5	30 June 1978
LC 417	7575	Czechoslovakia	Ceskoslovenska Obchodni Banka AS	Nat Westminster	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	4	5	31 January 1977
LC 366	7368	Denmark	A. P. Moller	Lazards	Ships equipment	2	10	1 November 1976 (extension under consideration)
LC 594	7368	Denmark	Kjobenhavns Handels Bank	Barclays Bank International	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	1	10	30 November 1976 (extension under consideration)
LC 608	7368	Denmark	Privatbanken	Barclays Bank International	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	0.5	10	30 November 1976 (not to be renewed)
LC 684	654	Finland	Bank of Helsinki	S. G. Warburg	Plant, equipment and associated services	1	10	10 October 1977
LC 672	7368	France	Credit Industrial et Commercial	Nat Westminster	UK capital plant and equipment and associated services	1	10	15 March 1977
LC 614	7368	France	Credit Du Nord et Union Parisienne	Midland Bank	Capital goods and associated services	2	10	31 December 1976
LC 532	7368	France	Compagnie Francaise Des Ferrailes SA	Midland Bank	Capital goods and associated services	1	10	28 February 1977
LC 527	7575	GDR	Deutsche Aussenhandels Bank	Williams and Glyn's Bank Ltd	Capital goods and associated services	2	10	31 October 1977
LC 618	7368	German Federal Republic	Commerzbank AG	Lloyds Bank	UK plant and equipment and associated UK services	2	10	30 November 1976 (extension under consideration)
LC 640	505	Guyana	Guyana Nat Co-Operative Bank	Lloyds Bank	UK capital plant, equipment and associated services	4	15	30 April 1978
LC 685	7575	Hungary	Nat Bank of Hungary	Morgan Grenfell	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	5	5	15 July 1978
LC 588	7575	Hungary	Nat Bank of Hungary	Morgan Grenfell	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	3	5	31 March 1977
LC 551	286	Costa Rica	Banco Central de Costa Rica	Lloyds Bank	Capital and semi-capital goods and services	2	10	30 April 1977
LC 584	7389	Indonesia	Indonesian Govt	Lloyds Bank	Constructional work, equipment and land reclamation machinery, capital equipment	20	200	15 May 1977
LC 386	7368	Irish Republic	Allied Irish Investment Bank	N. M. Rothschild and Sons Ltd	UK capital goods and associated services	2	10	31 March 1977
LC 440	7368	Irish Republic	Industrial Credit Co	Nat Westminster	UK plant and equipment and associated services	4	10	31 January 1977
LC 676	7368	France	Banque Nationale de Paris SA	Barclays Bank International	UK capital goods and associated services	2	10	29 June 1977
LC 511	7368	Irish Republic	Bank of Ireland Finance Ltd	Nat Westminster	UK plant and equipment and associated UK services	1	10	28 February 1977
LC 545	7368	Irish Republic	Electricity Supply Board	Hill Samuel	UK capital plant and equipment	2.75	10	30 November 1976
LC 638	7368	Irish Republic	Algemene Bank Nederland (Ireland) Ltd	Lloyds Bank	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	1	10	31 July 1977
LC 639	7368	Irish Republic	Bank of Ireland	Morgan Grenfell	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	2	10	30 June 1977
LC 540	7368	Israel	Bank Hapoalim	Rothschilds	UK capital goods and associated UK services	5	10	31 December 1976
LC 664	7368	Israel	Bank Leumi le Israel BM	Rothschilds	UK capital plant and equipment and associated UK services	5	10	22 April 1977
LC 636	7368	Israel	Industrial Development of Israel	Warburgs	UK capital goods and associated services	3	10	30 June 1977
LC 599	7157	Kenya	Development Finance Co of Kenya Ltd	Manufacturers Hanover Export Finance Ltd	UK plant and equipment and associated UK services	1	25	24 April 1978
LC 652	339	Korea South	Korea Exchange Bank	Lloyds Bank	Capital goods and associated services	4	10	31 March 1977
LC 557	339	Korea South	Korea Development Bank	Nat Westminster	Capital goods and associated services	2	10	5 July 1977
BC(MC)6/ 26072	287	Mexico	Petroleos Mexicanos	Baring Bros	Capital goods and services	20	20	1 August 1978 (polyethylene plant contracts)
							50	1 February 1978 (other contracts)
LC 502	7389	New Zealand	National Bank of New Zealand	Lloyds Bank	Capital goods	2	10	31 March 1977
LC 541	7389	New Zealand	Marac Corp	Williams and Glyn's	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	0.5	10	31 December 1976
LC 106	7389	Philippines	Manila Electric Co Meralco	Schroder Wagg	Capital plant and equipment for electrical transmission and distribution	3	50	22 January 1978
LC 428	7574	Poland	Bank Handlowy	Nat Westminster	Capital goods and associated UK services	20	50	20 March 1977
LC 708	7574	Poland	Bank Handlowy	Midland Bank	Capital goods and associated UK services	10	10	24 March 1978
LC 661	7574	Poland	Bank Handlowy	Lloyds Bank	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	2	10	8 August 1977
LC 709	7574	Poland	Bank Handlowy	Lloyds Bank Int	Capital goods and associated UK services	10	10	27 March 1978
LC 406	654	Portugal	Banco Fomento Nacional	Midland Bank	Capital plant and equipment	3	25	31 December 1976
LC 620	654	Portugal	SFP	Rothschilds	Capital plant and equipment	5	10	31 January 1977
LC 505	7575	Romania	Foreign Trade Bank	Lloyds Bank	Capital goods and associated services	7	5	30 June 1978
LC 510	7575	Romania	Foreign Trade Bank	Barclays Bank International	Capital goods and associated services	3	5	30 May 1977
LC 495	599	South Africa	IDC	Schroder Wagg	Capital goods and associated services	10	15	28 February 1977

Departmental reference	Tel. ext. at ECGD HQ	Recipient country	Borrower	UK bank	Purpose	Loan value £m	Minimum single contract value £000's	Final date for entering into contracts
LC 539	599	South Africa	Rand Bank	Manufacturers Hanover Export Finance Ltd	UK plant and equipment and related services	1	25	30 April 1977
LC 649	599	South Africa	Standard Merchant Bank	Tozer Standard Chartered Ltd	Capital goods and services	2	15	31 March 1978
LC 659	599	South Africa	S.A.R.H.A.	Hill Samuel	Railway equipment	30	100	1 October 1977
LC 650	599	South Africa	French Bank of Southern Africa	Morgan Grenfell	Capital plant and equipment	2	30	31 January 1978
LC 576	654	Spain	Banco Int De Comercio	Kleinwort Benson Ltd	Plant and equipment	1	100	31 August 1977
LC 444	654	Spain	Bank of London and S America	Lloyds Bank	Capital plant and equipment	5	10	31 December 1976
LC 558	654	Spain	Banco Catalana	Tozer Standard Chartered Ltd	Capital plant and equipment	1	10	17 January 1977
LC 633	654	Spain	Banco Industrial de Catalina	Standard Chartered	Capital plant and equipment	0.5	10	30 November 1977
LC 718	654	Spain	Banca Catalana	Standard Chartered	Capital plant and equipment	1	30	31 March 1978
LC 589	654	Sweden	Skandinaviska Enskolda Banka	Scandinavian Bank	Plant, equipment and associated services	1	10	31 October 1977
LC 624	654	Sweden	Gotabanken	Lloyds Bank	Capital plant and equipment	2	10	31 July 1977
LC 508	287	USA (for buyers in USA, Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil or Colombia or in markets later approved by ECGD)	North Carolina Nat Bank	Nat Westminster	UK goods and associated services	1	10	15 July 1976 (extension under consideration)
LC 645	7573	USSR	Vneshtorgbank	Morgan Grenfell	Capital goods and associated services	10	50	31 October 1977
LC 646	7573	USSR	Vneshtorgbank	Lloyds Bank	Capital goods and associated services	10	50	31 October 1977
LC 523	7575	Yugoslavia	Yugoslav Investment Bank	Barclays Bank International,	Capital goods and associated services	8	10	30 April 1977
LC 563	7575	Yugoslavia	Privredna Banka Zagreb	Lloyds Bank International	Capital goods and associated services	5	10	31 March 1977
LC 626	7575	Yugoslavia	Stopanska Banka Skopje	Lazards Bros	Capital goods and associated services	3	100	31 December 1977
LC 701	7575	Yugoslavia	Titograd Investment Bank	Lloyds Bank	Capital goods and associated services	10	10	31 March 1978
LC 574	7157	Zambia	Roan Consolidated Mines	Morgan Grenfell	Roan Consolidated Mines	3	5	27 February 1977

1 Requests for further information on any of these lines of credit should be made to the bank concerned or to Export Credits Guarantee Department, PO Box 272, Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL (tel. 01-606 6699 extensions as listed in the second column).

2 Exporters when negotiating business which might be financed under one of the above lines of credit, should ensure that their contract price contains sufficient margin to cover the cost of any premium payable. These details can be obtained from the bank concerned.

Mr Meacher visits west Africa

Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, is visiting the Ivory Coast and Ghana this week.

His visit to the Ivory Coast (2 to 5 January) is the first by a British trade minister. He met senior economic ministers and officials and representatives of the Ivorian and British business communities. Discussions covered the growing scope for British participation in the development of the Ivorian economy through the expansion of bilateral trade and investment.

In Ghana (5 to 8 January) the minister was due to call on the head of state, General Acheampong, and the commissioners for trade and foreign affairs. Mr Meacher's programme also included industrial visits in Accra and Kumasi.

Britain's main exports to Ghana (£50 million in 1975 and £72 million from January to November 1976) were machinery, industrial raw materials and foodstuffs. Main imports from Ghana (£58 million in 1975 and £76 million from Jan-Nov 1976) were cocoa, timber and gold.

In 1976 Ghana was the UK's third largest market in Black Africa (after Nigeria and Kenya). The UK remains Ghana's major supplier and customer.

Amendments to tariff quotas 1977: paper and board and certain printed products originating in Efta countries (and Finland)

The following corrections should be made to the notice published in 17 December 1976 issue of *Trade and Industry* under the above heading.

Page 802, **Sweden:** Chapter 48.01 ex E heading 'printing paper and writing paper containing mechanical woodpulp excluding copying tissues' quota serial 2141, tariff/trade code no. 4801.6386 should read 4801.6384.

Page 804, **Finland:** Chapter 48.07 B quota serial nos. 2672 and 2699 are not in line with relevant tariff/trade code nos., they should be as in the table below.

Page 806, **Switzerland:** Final quota, ie serial no. 3007, under the list of tariff/trade code nos. 4805.0288 should read 4806.0288.

Page 806, **Portugal:** CCT heading ex 48.01 clla and cllb should read ex 48.01 Clla and Cllb.

Page 806, **Chapter 49 Duty-free quotas: printed matter:** The quota for Switzerland should read 1,013.186 tonnes. Readers should note that all tariff/trade code nos. listed are covered by the quota for each of the countries listed.

Quota serial no.	1977 quota levels (metric tonnes)	Corresponding 1977 tariff/trade code no.
2672	50,350 tonnes (of which not more than 24,500 tonnes folding boxboard made from 100% woodpulp)	4807.3225 4807.3353
2699	(of which not more than 1,600 tonnes folding boxboard made from furnishes composed wholly or partly from waste paper)	4807.3481

Beirut port open again

Beirut port was officially re-opened on 15 December for passenger ships, cargo ships equipped with loading and unloading facilities, container ships and roll-on, roll-off ships.

The port will be able to receive other types of shipping shortly.

ECGD addresses

The Export Credits Guarantee Department's head office is at Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL. (Tel. 01-606 6699). ECGD has 10 local offices in various parts of the United Kingdom, and these are listed from time to time in *Trade and Industry*.

A diverse but rewarding area for trade

During the last three years the entry into force of the Lomé convention and the development of the Caribbean common market (Caricom) have had an important effect on commercial relations between Europe and the Caribbean. In this article Mr S. F. Champion, chairman of the West Indies Trade Committee, and Lt Col M. R. Robinson, chief executive of the West India Committee, examine the changing pattern of trade in the Caribbean region.

The Caribbean area needs definition: for the purpose of this article it includes the Greater and Lesser Antilles, the Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico, Belize, the Bahamas and Guyana. It stretches in an arc from Cuba in the north-west to Guyana in the south-east and includes Belize in the west. Distances are considerable, from the westernmost point of Cuba to Guyana is some 1,800 miles.

The area includes countries and islands of varying sizes, economies and populations (see the map opposite). English is spoken throughout the Commonwealth Caribbean; Spanish is the language of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico; French of Haiti and the islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique and Dutch of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam. Because of its immense diversity and because of the distances involved, the Caribbean is an area more complex than most with which to trade.

Trade and Industry last published an article on trade with the Caribbean in June 1973. Since then events in the Caribbean and Europe, both political and institutional, have affected or are affecting trade development. The Lomé convention between the 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and the EEC has entered into force; the Caribbean common market (Caricom) has developed; and the Caribbean Development Bank has begun to play an active part in the area.

Constitutionally there have been few changes, though there have been changes of parties in government. Today, however, the islands of the West Indies Associated States are individually seeking independence.

The Lomé convention has resulted in a concentration of effort on Europe by the independent governments of the Commonwealth Caribbean who now have representatives in Brussels. They are primarily concerned with sugar and other commodities, while seeking the opportunities that Europe as a whole offers for Commonwealth Caribbean goods. For its part, the European commission has appointed delegates resident in Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Surinam and Trinidad. At the same time as a result of Lomé, governments of the Caribbean are submitting their plans for regional projects financed by the European development fund. When and if these projects are approved, they will affect development in the Caribbean and thus trade with Europe. Further aid is similarly available to the dependent territories for development projects.

In addition to the Caribbean governments, contributors to the special development fund of the Caribbean Development Bank now include Canada, Colombia, the United Kingdom and Venezuela, and the bank has provided an increased number of loans both regionally and to individual countries for the development of industry and agriculture – such as food projects, housing and education.

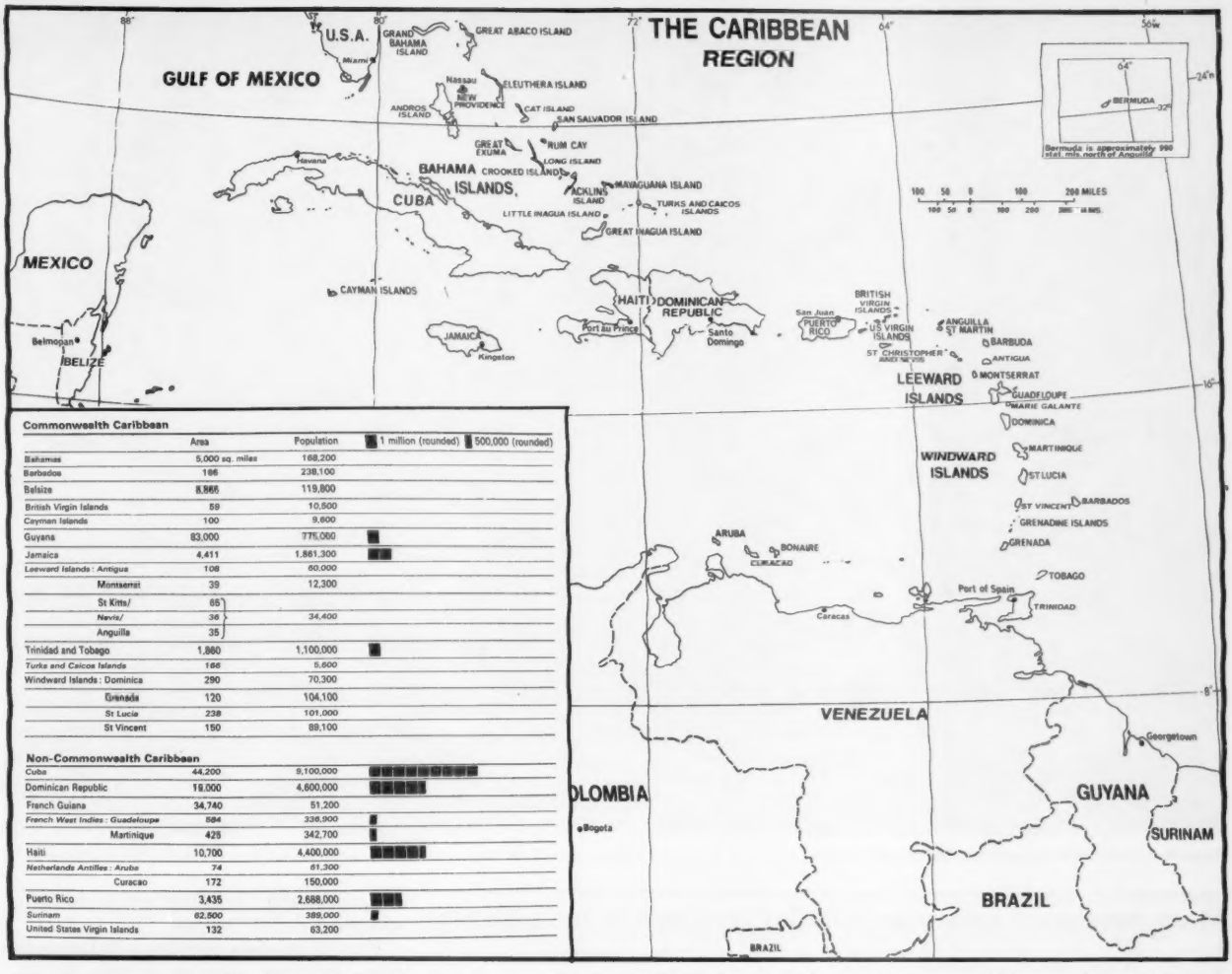
It has also provided finance to supplement the equity investment undertaken by the Caricom governments in Leeward Islands Air Transport – LIAT (1974) Ltd – in order to maintain the inter-island air service which is a vital element in the economies of the eastern Caribbean.

The development of Caricom has resulted in greater regional co-operation, both politically and economically. A development of significance in the past year has been the aligning of all currencies in the region to the US dollar which, with the fluctuating position of sterling, has meant that British goods are more attractively priced in the Caribbean. All these developments indicate that exporters and investors should look at the region as a whole, certainly to the Commonwealth Caribbean and, for practical purposes, to the whole area.

The pattern of trade with the Caribbean has in the past been in general one of the Caribbean exporting agricultural products and the UK exporting in return manufactured goods and heavy industrial and agricultural machinery. This has now changed. Today the Caribbean is seeking to sell its manufactured goods in Europe in addition to its traditional export crops.

Under the Lomé convention, duty-free entry is granted to goods originating from the Commonwealth Caribbean and a trickle has started. The recent London Impo-Expo exhibition has encouraged this trend by bring-

Bauxite mining in Guyana.



Commonwealth Caribbean

	Area	Population	■ 1 million (rounded) ■ 500,000 (rounded)
Bahamas	5,000 sq. miles	168,200	
Barbados	166	238,100	
Belize	8,866	119,800	
British Virgin Islands	59	10,500	
Cayman Islands	100	9,600	
Guyana	83,000	775,000	■
Jamaica	4,411	1,861,300	■■
Leeward Islands: Antigua	108	60,000	
Montserrat	39	12,300	
St Kitts/	65		
Nevis/	36	34,400	
Anguilla	35		
Trinidad and Tobago	1,860	1,100,000	■
Turks and Caicos Islands	166	5,600	
Windward Islands: Dominica	290	70,300	
Grenada	120	104,100	
St Lucia	238	101,000	
St Vincent	150	89,100	

Non-Commonwealth Caribbean

Cuba	44,200	9,100,000	■■■■■■■■■
Dominican Republic	19,000	4,600,000	■■■■■
French Guiana	34,740	51,200	
French West Indies: Guadeloupe	584	336,900	■
Martinique	428	342,700	■
Haiti	10,700	4,400,000	■■■■■
Netherlands Antilles: Aruba	74	61,300	
Curacao	172	150,000	
Puerto Rico	3,435	2,688,000	■■■
Surinam	62,500	389,000	■
United States Virgin Islands	132	63,200	

ing for the first time to London a display of goods, resulting in increased orders for Caribbean exports of manufactured articles.

Today the main industries of the Caribbean are bauxite, sugar, oil, agriculture and tourism. In the Commonwealth Caribbean considerable industrialisation has been taking place, particularly in the more developed countries (MDC) – Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad – and a wide range of manufacturing industries has been established. The table on page 44 shows the major projects in the pipeline among the MDCs – some are part of development plans.

The need for the Caribbean to become less dependent on imported food has led to a concentration on local production of food products for domestic consumption and for the tourist industry. The less developed countries (LDC) – the Leeward and Windward Islands, Belize and the island groups of the Caymans, Turks and Caicos Islands and British Virgin Islands – with few natural resources are still dependent on their agricultural crops such as bananas, cocoa, nutmeg, citrus and their expanding tourist industries. Also small industries such as garment manufacturing, boat building and light assembly industries have been introduced in recent years. Generous investment incentives in the form of tax holidays and duty-free imports for approved industries exist in all countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean for investors in joint enterprises with majority local participation particularly where the goods produced are to be exported within the region.

One event which has had a most dramatic effect on the economies of all the countries in the region has been the rapid increase in oil prices. For Trinidad this has meant that today her income per capita is about US$2,000 – the fifth highest in the western hemisphere after the US, Canada, Venezuela and Puerto Rico – and a balance of trade surplus in 1975 of TT$634 million; only four years ago, in 1972, Trinidad had an adverse balance on visible trade of TT$378.9 million. But for Jamaica it has caused a serious balance of payments deficit and, as a result, severe import restrictions have had to be imposed.

Britain's position

The percentage of British exports in 1975 to the Caribbean (both Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth), as against total exports to the rest of the world, was 1.4 per cent, with a value of £281.5 million to the region. This exceeds British exports for the same period to Mexico and Brazil together by over £8.9 million. For a breakdown of UK trade with the MDCs – Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Barbados and Guyana – see page 44.

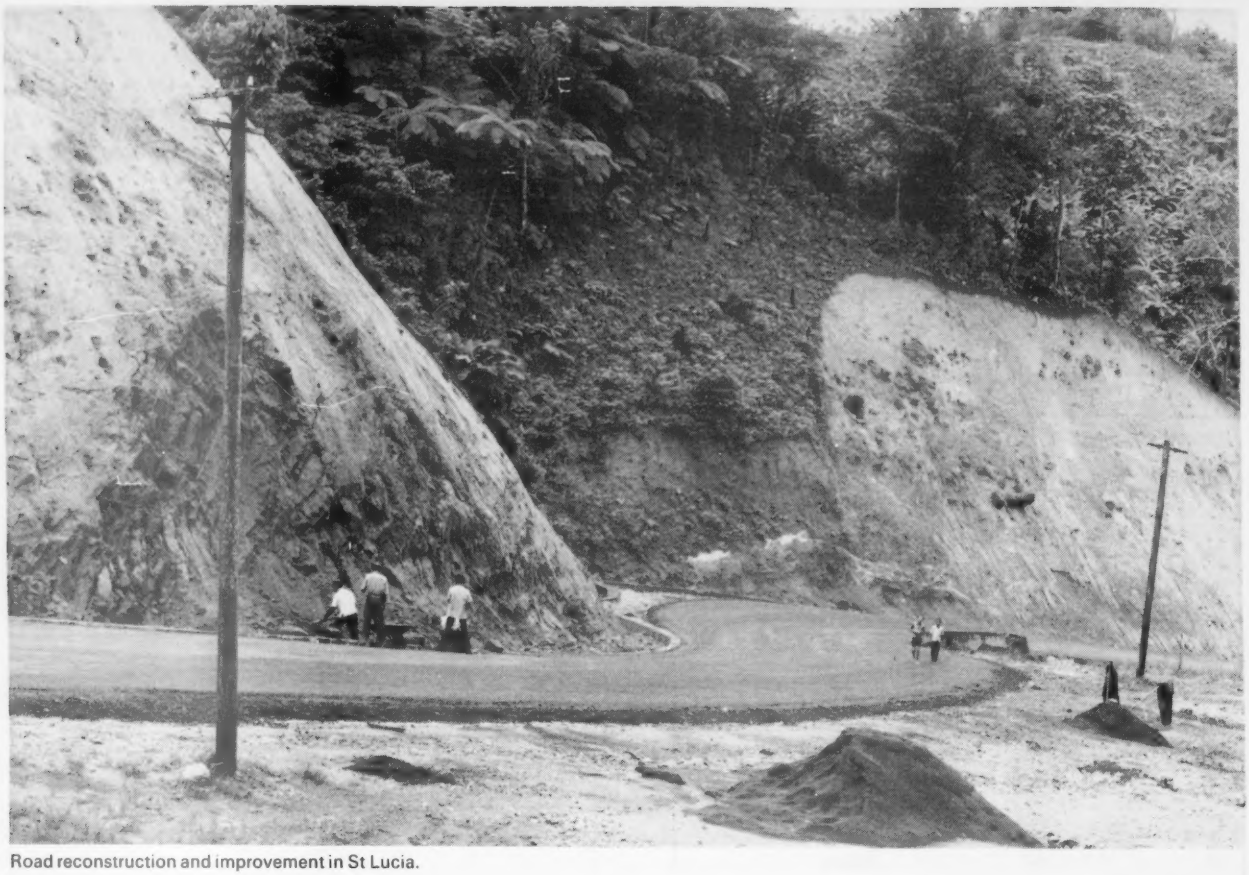
But Germany, Japan, the United States and Canada are very active in the area and today are taking a large share of the market; Canada and the United States are turning to their advantage their proximity; Germany and Japan are particularly aggressive exporters; and eastern Europe is beginning to make inroads where state trading systems exist – in Guyana, for example.

There is no question that in the days following independence the UK continued to take for granted her long-established position in the area. All this has changed; the fight is on and there is a noticeable change in attitude on the part of British exporters in a market which still welcomes British goods provided the specifications and delivery dates required can be met. Nonetheless, Britain still has a considerable interest in the area which is well-served by UK government posts.

No accurate figures are available for British investment in the Caribbean but the Commonwealth Development Corporation's investment in Caribbean projects to December 1975 totalled some £50.2 million. In addition, the British government still gives aid to the

West Indies Trade Committee

The West Indies Trade Committee, the British Overseas Trade Board's area advisory group, was formed in 1972 under the aegis of the West India Committee, a London-based organisation with membership throughout the Caribbean and the UK whose purpose is, among other things, to promote inter Caribbean/UK trade.



Road reconstruction and improvement in St Lucia.

More developed countries (MDCs) : projects in the pipeline

Guyana
a textile mill, cement plant, glass factory, paper re-cycling plant, leather tannery, forestry projects, infrastructural developments of road, airstrips and a hydro-electric scheme;

Jamaica
a new alumina processing plant. substantially increased cement production facilities, airport expansion, infrastructural development of roads and bridges and a new central sorting office for the General Post Office, deep water pier and container facilities.

Trinidad and Tobago
a liquid ammonia plant, iron and steel project, man-made textile complex, furfural plant, fertiliser production, gas pipeline project, increased cement production.

Barbados
harbour expansion, construction of container storage facilities, improvement of airport facilities, new sewerage system, flour mill, cement plant.

UK trade with the MDCs

		UK share of market %	Position	Value of UK exports £ million	Value of UK imports £ million
Trinidad and Tobago	1971	26.3	3rd	33.9	20.7
	1973	22.0	3rd	32.9	16.3
	1975	8.8	4th	52.3	34.6
Jamaica	1971	19.6	2nd	43.2	34.5
	1973	16.7	2nd	43.5	44.7
	1975	13.1	3rd	61.0	80.2
Barbados	1971	30.0	1st	13.3	6.6
	1973	24.7	1st	14.1	8.6
	1975	22.3	1st	17.2	14.8
Guyana	1971	31.0	1st	15.9	16.0
	1973	25.0	1st	16.1	19.5
	1975	21.6	2nd	29.6	48.1

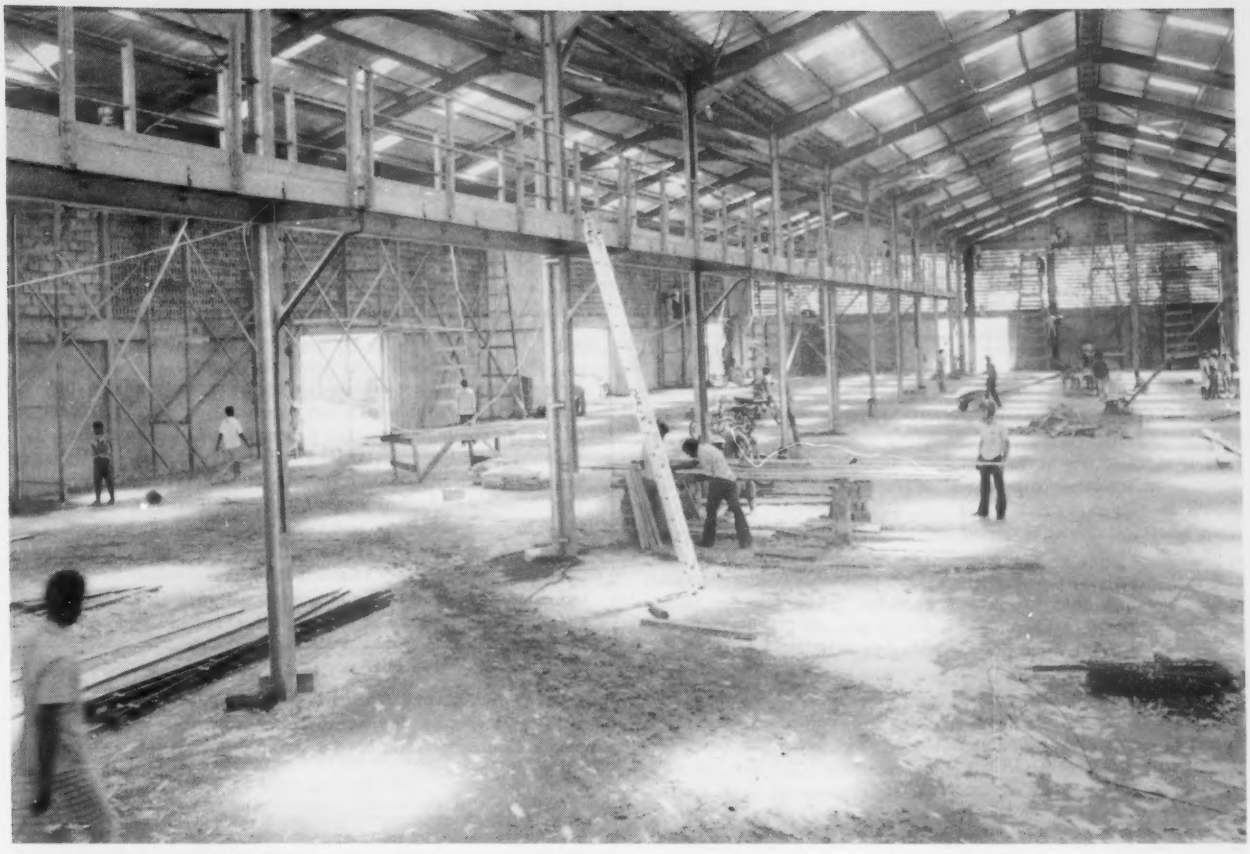
Commonwealth Caribbean which, in 1975, amounted to £19.6 million.

The UK provides, together with European lines, excellent shipping services to the Caribbean. The new Caribbean Overseas Lines (Carol) will add to the many services already available. The schedule will build up to a weekly service by the autumn of this year and will provide, when all six container vessels are fully operative, direct calls from Europe and the UK to the Caribbean ports of Barbados, Trinidad, Curacao, Aruba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Central America. Complimentary plans are maturing in the Caribbean for improved inter-island services.

Air cargo space is now more than adequate. For the 12 months from April 1975 to March 1976, British Airways carried from the UK 1,207 tonnes (42.7 per cent of the available capacity of 2,829 tonnes) and from the Caribbean 454 tonnes (10.8 per cent of the capacity of 4,182 tonnes). In the six months from April 1976 the equivalent increased figures were UK/Caribbean 1,300 tonnes (33 per cent of capacity) and Caribbean/UK 500 tonnes (11 per cent of capacity).

The United States has the advantage of proximity, enabling spares to be flown down within days. This has led certain UK firms to establish bonded warehouse facilities in the area and is a system which others could and might well copy. Facilities for such an arrangement exist in the MDCs, also the Bahamas and the Colon Free Zone (Panama).

West Indies Trade Committee
In the UK the West Indies Trade Committee,



The new marketing board depot in Kingstown, St Vincent. British Development Aid has allocated a total of £156,000 for the project.

the area advisory group to the BOTB, has as its aims and objectives the increase of Britain's share of the market throughout the Caribbean and increased investment in joint enterprises. However, it has always accepted that trade must be two-way and in its day-to-day activities it is therefore concerned with trade from the Caribbean. To this end the committee welcomes and assists businessmen and missions visiting the UK.

In addition to being a mission sponsor, though, the West Indies Trade Committee seeks to co-ordinate missions from the UK to the Caribbean. In 1974 it was responsible for the first British mission to Cuba since the revolution which was followed-up by the London chamber of commerce mission in early 1976. It is interesting to note that British exports to Cuba in 1972 amounted to £16.7 million and by 1975 had risen to £36.9 million.

The Trade Committee has directed its attention to areas such as Hispaniola and Puerto Rico where British exports have been historically low; and has endeavoured to persuade small and medium-sized companies to export, with some success. The Committee has also directed potential investors to the smaller islands.

Looking at the Caribbean as a whole – and past experience has shown it to be impractical to send missions to the smaller islands – the Committee recently sponsored the first 'scatter' type of mission to the Caribbean, based initially on Trinidad. This resulted in over 30 countries being visited by one or more of the 20 mission members. The indications are that the mission was highly successful and good new orders have already been reported by many participants, some of whom had not visited the Caribbean before and who, in particular, were surprised at the opportunities that exist throughout the region.

How to compete

There are still, regrettably, complaints throughout the region of delays by UK firms in meeting delivery dates. Some British industries are not regarded with any great favour by overseas buyers. However all is not bad; in two instances resulting from a recent mission orders received were processed in a matter of weeks and are now awaiting shipment.

Aggressive marketing is required. If the UK is to compete with, for example, Japan and the United States, it must be seen to be active in the area – people matter more than paper, particularly in the Caribbean. British industry, particularly small and medium-sized firms, needs to be made aware of the opportunities which exist for exports to and trade with the Caribbean. This requires a fast and efficient distribution of information which the West Indies Trade Committee is endeavouring to provide.

The position is therefore that British goods are welcome; investment incentives exist; communications – despite distances from the UK – are good; there are first-class markets for British exports but more and more local manufacture is taking place; the area is well served by British government posts and, although individually the markets are small, collectively the Caribbean is a comparatively rich and rewarding area with which to trade.

Henry Simon £500,000 Caribbean flour mill contract

News has been received that Barbados Mills Ltd has placed a £500,000 contract with Henry Simon Ltd, Stockport, a Simon Food Engineering company, for the design, supply of equipment, erection and commissioning of a new flour mill at Bridgetown, Barbados.

Work on the engineering is proceeding and the milling installation will be in buildings sited in the new dock complex in the port area when completed. The mill will be constructed as a part of the new integrated dock development scheme offering some of the finest berthing and trans-shipping facilities in the Caribbean.

Simon will provide machinery for an output of 1,500 cwt of flour a day and a wheat intake of 200 tonnes an hour. The plant will incorporate the new type 'J' rollermills, the latest type 'S' Mk 6 purifiers, bran finishers and square sieve sifters in addition to pneumatic conveying, mechanical handling systems and grain cleaning equipment. The contract also calls for storage facilities for grains other than wheat, including maize and sorghum.

Barbados Mills Ltd is associated with Maple Leaf Mills Ltd of Toronto, one of the largest flour milling companies in Canada.

Overseas trade country data

Australia

Certain paper and paperboard: location and time of the public hearing. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 5 November 1976, reported a reference to the Industries Assistance Commission on the question whether the importation of certain paper and paperboard should be subject to tariff quotas after 31 May 1977 and if so, at what level and for what period such quotas and tariff rates should apply.

The Industries Assistance Commission will hold the first of its public hearings into the reference at the Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, 16th Floor, 59 Goulburn Street, Sydney, NSW 2600, Australia, commencing at 10.00 am on Monday, 24 January 1977.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 1744/76

Tariff changes. The following changes in the Australian tariff took effect from 15 December 1976:

Tariff no.	Description	General rate	Preferential rate
1 Omit sub-item 73.13.3, substitute the following sub-item:			
73.13.3	Corrugated or galvanised or corrugated and galvanised, whether or not cut to non-rectangular shape but not drilled, punched or otherwise worked	$9.59 per t	$6.65 per t
2 Omit paragraph 85.01.21, substitute the following paragraph:			
85.01.21	Induction coils, not being goods falling within paragraph 85.01.22	30%	17%
3 Omit sub-item 85.14.2			
4 Omit sub-item 85.15.1, substitute the following sub-item:			
85.15.1	Radio broadcasting reception apparatus including receivers incorporating sound recorders or reproducers; television reception apparatus for the reception of signals without line connection including receivers incorporating radio broadcasting receivers, sound recorders or reproducers	In respect of each picture tube designed for visual display of television in colour – 5%; in respect of the remainder of the goods – 35%	In respect of each picture tube designed for visual display of television in colour – 5% in respect of the remainder of the goods – 35%
5 Omit sub-items 85.18.2 to 85.18.4 (inclusive), substitute the following sub-item:			
85.18.2	Capacitors that are: i of a kind used in X-ray apparatus; ii of a kind used as standards or references for comparison and measuring purposes; or iii of the power factor correction type	34%	21%
6 Omit sub-item 85.21.2			

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

Power transformers: place and time of the public hearing. The Industries Assistance Commission has received an amended request from Australian manufacturers covering power transformers falling within tariff item 85.01.293. The request is that a rate of duty of 40 per cent *ad valorem* be applicable to power transformers with voltage ratings above 75kV and which were not on firm order as from 1 December, for a period of five years from the date of the commission's recommendation.

The commission has decided to undertake a further public hearing related only to the question of short-term assistance to the goods covered by the request, and this took place at the Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, Kings Avenue, Canberra, Australia, commencing at 10.00a.m. on Monday 20 December 1976.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 2371/72

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

Industries Assistance Commission reference on developing country preference for watt-hours meters. The Industries Assistance Commission has been asked to inquire into and report on the question whether

having regard to the fact that the policy objective of the system of tariff preferences for developing countries is to assist imports from developing countries to become competitive in the Australian market, by according preferential tariff treatment to such imports provided that the imports entered under such preferential tariffs do not cause or threaten injury to Australian industry

1 Imports of watt-hour meters falling within items 90.26.311 or 90.26.319 in Schedule 1 to the Customs Tariff Act 1966, as proposed to be altered, and dutiable at the developing country preferential tariff rates applying to those goods are causing or threatening injury to Australian industry

2 If so from which country or countries should the developing country margins of preference be withdrawn or modified and if modified, to what extent

The Industries Assistance Commission held the public hearing for this reference at the Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, Kings Avenue, Canberra, Australia on 13 December 1976.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 1990/76

Bangladesh

Industrial investment information centre. An industrial investment information centre has been established by the government of Bangladesh at 58 Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dacca. The principal objective of the centre is to promote industrial investment through counselling and advisory services to existing and prospective local and foreign investors. The centre will act as a channel of communication between prospective foreign investors and local organisations interested in industrial investment in Bangladesh.

Further details may be obtained from Mr Musharraf Hossain, Director/Planning at the centre or from the High Commission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 28 Queen's Gate, London SW1.

Belgium

Butter and butter mixtures decree. The *Moniteur Belge* 239 of 11 December 1976 published a decree dated 22 October 1976 concerning butter, mixtures of butter and establishing a quality control for butter. The decree enters into force on 11 January except for articles 1 to 11. These articles are to be implemented by a later decree.

An English translation is being prepared but copies of the decree (in French) are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Brazil

Import restrictions extended for a further year. Cacex – the Foreign Trade Department of the Banco do Brasil SA – has announced that the current import restrictions, due to expire at the end of the year, will be extended through 1977. A law extending the import deposit scheme and the list of items for which import licences are suspended will be passed before the end of the year.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Reference price on plasticisers. Customs Policy Council resolution 2889, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 23 November 1976, established a reference price on 'plasticisers based on any mixture of phthalic esters', under CCCN (formerly BTN) tariff no. 38.19.32.00. of US$ 1,100 per tonne cif.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Changes in duty. The following changes in import duty have been notified, the previous rates of duty are shown in brackets:

CCCN no.	Description	Revised duty
28.43.09.00	Sodium cyanide	45% (15%)
29.03.99.00	3,5dinitro-4-chlorobenzotrifluoride	exempt for one year from 23 November
29.22.99.00	n-dipropylamine	exempt for one year from 23 November
75.03.02.00	Nickel powder and particles having at least 25% aluminium content	45% (15%)
90.18.06.00	Anaesthesia apparatus and apparatus for short-term respiratory and cardio-respiratory re-animation	35% (9%)

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Canada

Import quotas on clothing. *Trade and Industry*, 10 December, contained details of the global quotas imposed on imports of clothing from all sources with effect from 29 November. Further information is available and the items of clothing covered by the quotas are as follows:

Pants (including jeans, slacks, shorts, overalls and coveralls); unstructured or leisure shirts; blouses and ladies' shirts; pyjamas and sleepwear; raincoats; sportswear including dresses and co-ordinates; foundation garments; swimwear; underwear; top coats, overcoats and outer jackets, including duffle coats, suburban coats and pant coats; men's fine suits; leather coats; men's and boys' shirts; sweaters, pullovers and cardigans.

Imports of outerwear garments – commonly referred to as:

1 Snowsuits, snowmobile suits, ski suits and ski pants;
2 Jackets and vests including parkas and ski jackets that have an outer shell manufactured substantially from woven fabrics and that are lined and designed to protect the wearer against cold or inclement weather;
3 Are included in the above list but are treated differently, in that 1977 imports will be limited to a total of approximately 2.3 million units from all sources.

The Canadian Minister for Industry, Trade and Commerce announced on 16 December special facilities to alleviate cases of hardship whilst maintaining the integrity of the quota programme. In allocating import quota entitlements on the basis of 1975 imports, only 90 per cent will be allotted on this basis. The balance will be unallocated and used to deal with special hardship cases. Such cases will be referred to a special Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce committee responsible for advising on individual applications.

This committee will also consider a limited degree of interchangeability of permits among different categories of clothing, in order to respond when necessary to market changes.

The minister has recognised that many cases of difficulty remain, particularly that faced by importers who would not be eligible for import allocations because they did not import in 1975.

To alleviate constraints imposed on imports which do not disrupt Canadian production, special action will be taken in respect of clothing items which originate mainly from fashion houses and producers of speciality items which, typically, command a substantial premium in the market. No definition has been given of garments which are eligible for importation under this system. A special review committee under the Textile and Clothing Board will determine elgibility of individual import permit applications in this category.

To encourage the use of permit allocations for the importation of children's wear, an importer may now convert his adult clothing allocation to children's wear on a basis of three units of adult clothing to four of children's clothing in the same category.

To help small retail businesses in their Christmas sales, all shipments which were in Canadian customs on midnight 16 December and which did not individually exceed a value of $10,000 were allowed to enter under an open general licence. This did not apply to outerwear imports.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5397

Chile

Free zones. Since the issue of *Trade and Industry* of 16 January 1976, the Chilean free zone regulation regime has developed as follows:

i Free Zones ('zonas francas'): At Iquique the free zone is in full operation for all classes of importers and commodities. The authorities are currently encouraging the establishment of industrial operations within this 'extra-territorial' zone to supplement the trade in imported finished goods from the zone to the general Chilean market and to neighbouring countries. The sole 3 per cent *ad valorem* tax which was to be levied on entry of imported goods/equipment into the zone has been rescinded. Free zone privileges (ie freedom from customs duty and VAT) on most commodities issuing from this free zone have been extended to an area – the city limits – immediately adjacent to the free zone proper. Similar conditions – though for a more limited variety of goods – are being introduced for despatches to the nearby area of Arica at the Chilean border with Bolivia and Peru.

At Punta Arenas, which is the second Chilean port at which a similar 'extra-territorial' free zone is being set up, the system is in a stage of organisation, the area is being fenced off and facilities built. The adjacent city area to which duty free conditions will extend (as at Iquique) has been designated, as also has the list of products to which these extended free zones conditions will apply.

ii 'Free Port' Areas ('depositos francos'): As regards the establishment as from 1979 at 10 Chilean cities (mainly ports and airports) of tax free areas ('depositos francos') for the storage, packing and selling of imported goods – though not for industrial processing – a recent Decree, No. 1595 of 13 November 1976, brings forward the introduction of this type of operation solely for wheat, fertilisers and fertiliser raw materials to a date to be fixed and at ports/locations to be designated before 30 November 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Exchange rates. The Chilean Central Bank has now established the daily rates of exchange for the period 5 December to 4 January. Copies of the Bank's decision, as published in the *Official Gazette* of 3 December are available from CRE tel. 01-215 5289.

Czechoslovakia

Five-year plan 1976-80. The Czechoslovak Party Central Committee met on 19 November 1976 to approve the 1977 Five-year plan.

A paper giving a summary of the plan is available on request to the Commercial Relations and Exports Division (Section 4) Department of Trade, R.325, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1, or telephone 01-215 3381 or 5267.

Denmark

Labelling requirements for floating equipment. The Danish Merchandise Description Board has issued directives on the informative labelling of life-jackets and other floating safety equipment. Although these directives are not issued under a law, non-compliance would effectively prevent the sale of items which are not supplied

with informative labelling. No date for compliance with the measures has been given, however, it is probable that they will be put into effect in time for the next sailing season in August 1977.

A copy of the directive, in Danish, is available on request.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7174.

Fiji

Metrication: duty changes. To prepare for metrication on 1 January 1977 changes in the tariff have been announced which affect alcoholic beverages (chapter 22), tobacco (24.01, 24.02), oils, petroleum oils and gases (27.07-27.11), benzene (29.01 03.01), methanol (29.04 05.01) cinematograph film (37.07 00.00), cooking appliances (73.36 00.02, 74.17 00.02), air conditioning machines (84.12 00.01), pocket calculating machines (84.52 55.01), new notes on alcoholic beverages have been issued to explain how duty will be assessed on standard bottles and containers. Details of all the above on request from OTAR. Please quote the tariff number (CCCN (formerly BTN) number).

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 469/401/468.

France

Law on the use of the French language. This law was approved on 31 December 1975, published in the *Journal Officiel* on 4 January 1976, and entered into force on 4 January 1977.

It was the subject of a notice in *Trade and Industry* of 2 April 1976 which said that the French authorities intended to publish more specific instructions on the application of the law. Instead, general guidelines on the scope of the enforcement of the law are currently being prepared. The enforcement of the law will be the responsibility of the Service de la Repression des Fraudes.

It is understood that the law is primarily intended to protect the interests of the French consumer, and that it is not intended to act as an obstacle to trade. For the first few months, it is envisaged that those who infringe the law will be given warnings rather than faced with legal proceedings.

A more detailed notice will be published in *Trade and Industry* as soon as the general guidelines are available.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5307.

Greece

Import licencing: transfer of items to import list A. As from 13 November 1976 the following items have been included on list A, and may only be imported after approval of the Greek government.

ex 06.04 A	From the foliage, leaves, branches and other parts of plants, etc. under this heading, only fir tree branches and tops.
ex 39.01 C1b11aa ex 39.01 C2b1aa	Amended as follows: Of the items which come under these tariff headings, glues made from urea or phenol and formaldehyde (methanol), ie phenoplasts aminoplasts in liquid or paste form or in powder form, imported for use as raw materials in the manufacture of artificial timber (plywood chipboard, fibreboard, hardboard, etc). If these resins are intended for other use, they shall be imported without Greek Government approval. Importers shall submit along with the application asking for the certification of the invoice, a statement stating the use for which the resins are intended, and the importer's status.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 439.

Iran

Import regulations. The Iranian authorities have announced changes in import regulations and the following CCCN (formerly BTN) numbers are affected:

40.11 61.01 85.15 87.07 87.12

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 475/420/7062.

Iraq

Import regulations. Following the notice published in *Trade and Industry*, 26 November, the extent of prohibition in Iraq of goods coming from neighbouring countries, eg Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Lebanon, applies only to re-exported goods which have not been subject to any change and not to goods in transit.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 475.

Israel

Amendments to the free import order. The Israeli authorities have issued the following amendments to the free import order (this is an order which lists, goods for which no special import licence is required, although importers must hold an approved importers certificate):

CCCN 68.11 has been replaced by:

CCCN (BN no.)	Description	Special conditions
68.11	Articles of cement (including slag cement), of concrete or of artificial stone (including granulated marble agglomerated with cement), reinforced or not:	
	1000 floor tiles	approval of Standard IS 6
	9900 Other	

CCCN 85.11 has been replaced by:

CCCN (BN no.)	Description	Special conditions
85.11	All goods of this heading excluding microphones of paragraph 1000	
	1 Soldering irons	1 New goods 2 Standard approval TI 430
	2 Electrode heaters for soldering by by hand	1 New goods 2 Standard Approval MFAS 255 (proposed but not finally approved)
	3 Electric arc-welding machines and apparatus	Approval of Standard IS 717
	4 Other	

CCCN 85.17 has been deleted from the order and these goods will now require an import licence.

Standards approval: the importer must be in possession of an approval from the Israeli Standard Institute according to which the goods imported correspond to the standard requirements or approval.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Standard for domestic electric washing machines. Israeli standard IS no. 322 Domestic electric washing machines has now been declared official and compliance with it will be compulsory 60 days from 2 December 1976.

The Standards Institution of Israel issues an English translation of the standard and copies may be obtained from the British Standards Institution Library, 2 Park Street, London W1 (tel. 01-629 9000).

British exporters requiring technical advice are advised to contact Technical Help to Exporters, British Standards Institution, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HB1 1BR (tel. 0442 3111).

Other inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Amendments to the Israeli customs tariff. The following amendments to the rate of import duty have been announced:

CCCN (BN no.)	Description	Import duty
44.07 – 9900	Other	50%
68.10 – 9900	Other	20%
82.11 – 2000	Safety razor blades and blanks	
– 2010	– the knives	IL 0.20 each

The following statistical sub-division has now been included under CCCN 29.25:

CCCN	Description	Import duty
29.28 – 4300	N.N.-diethyl-em-toluamide	10%

CCCN 84.22 statistical sub-division 2000 has been replaced by:

CCCN	Description	Import duty
84.22 – 2000	Elevators other than those of paragraph 1500*	
– 2010	– for temporary installation during construction	10% (*NB* the rate of duty for the original EEC = 9%)
– 2090	– other	20%

* 1500 = Special for baking industry, including confectioneries, approved by the Director General of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry that they are not manufactured in Israel

CCCN 44.07, statistical sub-division 2000: 'of a kind used for building cranes', has been deleted.

CCCN 85.08, statistical sub-division 2000 – 'ignition magnetos of tractor engines used for agricultural or earth work, provided that they differ in construction or weight from corresponding parts of other vehicle engines and that they have been approved by the Director before importation', has been deleted.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Italy

Exchange control. On 23 December 1976, the Italian government announced that the 7 per cent surcharge, on foreign exchange purchases, introduced on 23 October 1976 (see *Trade and Industry*, 12 November 1976, page 449) will be gradually reduced over the next two months, starting from 27 December. On 27 December 1976 the rate was reduced to 3.5 per cent, from 3 January to 3 per cent, from 10 January to 2.5 per cent, from 17 January to 1 per cent, from 7 February to 0.5 per cent and from 18 February to zero. No further details are available at present.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 466/467/266.

Malta

Double taxation agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany. The Malta *Government Gazette* of 10 December 1976 published an agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and Malta for the avoidance of double taxation. The existing taxes to which this agreement shall apply are in the Federal Republic of Germany:

1 Income Tax including surcharge thereon;

2 Corporation Tax including surcharge thereon;

3 Capital Tax;

4 Trade Tax;

and in Malta

1 Income Tax including surtax

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Import licensing control. The Malta *Government Gazette*, 14 December 1976, announced that with immediate effect the importation of chocolate and any other product with a content of chocolate in any form or state, now requires a specific import licence.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

CRE tel. Direct dialling **OTAR** telephone 01-248 5757
Extensions to **OTAR** numbers are given at the end of each notice

Netherlands

Cosmetics decree. A decree dated 19 October 1976 ('Staatsblad' 612), published on 30 November 1976, modifies the Cosmetics Decree (Commodity Law).

Copies of this decree (in Dutch) are available. An English translation should be available in about a month's time.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

New Zealand

Industries Development Commission reports. Copies of the following New Zealand Industries Development Commission reports are now available.

1 365 Certain rubber products of tariff headings 40.05, 40.06 and 40.09

2 366 Rubber tyring, tyres, etc, of tariff heading 40.11 and ex tariff heading 40.08

3 370 Certain rubber products of tariff heading 40.06, 40.07 and 40.08.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5321. Ref. CRE 71/76

Revaluation. Further to the devaluation of the New Zealand dollar on 30 November (see *Trade and Industry*, 10 December 1976, page 748), the New Zealand Prime Minister has announced the revaluation of the New Zealand dollar as from 20 December 1976.

One New Zealand dollar currently equals Sterling 56 pence.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5321. Ref. CRE 61/76

South Africa

Customs tariff changes. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 3 December 1976.

R.2252 28.16: The rate of duty on ammonia, anhydrous or in aqueous solution, is amended from 760c per 100kg less the fob price, insurance and freight to 1420c per 100kg less the fob price, insurance and freight.

R.2254 39.07, 42.03 and 62.05: Specific provision is made for watch straps of an artificial plastic material, of leather or composition leather and of textile material and the rates of duty are amended to the extent indicated – 39.07.50.20 watch straps – (General) 40 per cent or 22c each, 42.03.30 watch straps – (General) 25 per cent or 14c each and 62.05.50 – watch straps – (General) 20 per cent or 15c each.

R.2255 51.02: The rate of duty on monofil of polyethylene or polypropylene material is increased from 10 per cent to 30 per cent or 95c per kg less 70 per cent of the fob price.

R.2256 87.06: The reference to servomotors in subheading 87.06.60.10 is replaced by a reference to servomechanisms and the reference to valves is deleted as valves are classifiable in tariff heading 84.61.

INDUSTRIAL REBATES

R.2257 Item 311.19, 311.20, 311.21 and 312.01 of 60.01 and 60.06: The provisions for a rebate of duty on: 1 Printed knitted or crocheted fabrics, of synthetic fibres, for the manufacture of swimwear for men and boys and under garments. 2 Printed knitted or crocheted fabrics of cellulosic fibres, for the manufacture of swimwear for women and girls. 3 Knitted or crocheted fabrics, quilted or padded, for use as padding in the manufacture of women's and girls outer garments. 4 Knitted or crocheted trimmings, printed, of synthetic fibres, for the manufacture of swimwear for women and girls. 5 Knitted or crocheted fabrics interlined with foam rubber, for the manufacture of swimwear for women and girls. 6 Knitted or crocheted fabrics of combed or carded wool or other combed or carded animal hair, for the manufacture of pyjama suits, nightdresses and shirts, including collars. 7 Knitted trimmings of open-work fabrics similar to lace, of stretch or bulked yarns, for the manufacture of under garments, and 8 Knitted or crocheted fabrics, whether or not combined with foam or sponge rubber, for the manufacture of footwear, are withdrawn.

R.2258 Item 320.04 of 39.01: Provision is made for a rebate of the full duty on laminated artificial plastic material, for the manufacture of rugby, soccer and similar balls.

GENERAL REBATES

R.2253 Item 460.06 of 28.16: The extent of rebate of duty on ammonia, anhydrous or in aqueous solution, in such quantities and at such times as the Secretary for Industries may allow by specific permit is amended from not exceeding 140c per 100kg to not exceeding 290c per 100kg.

REBATES, REFUNDS OF EXCISE DUTY

R.2259 Item 607.04.10. Provision is made for a rebate of the full excise duty less 835c per 100 litres of absolute alcohol on plain spirits entered for use in the manufacture, in accordance with a formula approved by the Secretary, of washing preparations.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Industrial rebates. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 26 November 1976.

R2215 Item 304.01, No. 03.01, Provision is made for a rebate of the full duty on mackerel, fresh, chilled or frozen, for the manufacture of fish paste.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Tariff application. Customs tariff application list no. 41/76, published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 17 December 1976 contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on:

1 Polypropylene fibres classifiable under tariff subheadings 56.01.50, 56.02.50 and 56.04.05.
2 dioctyl adipates classifiable under tariff subheading 29.15.90
3 slide fasteners and parts thereof classifiable under tariff heading 98.02.

Those British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE, tel. 01-215 5274.

Customs tariff changes. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 10 December 1976.

R.2407 39.02, 51.10 and 39.07, 80.10: The rate of duty on floor coverings (including tiles), of vinyl chloride polymers or copolymers, backed with asbestos, is amended from 20 per cent or 165c per m^2 less 80 per cent of the fob price to 20 per cent or 240c per m^2 less 80 per cent of the fob price.

R.2408 73.32.20: Sub-heading 73.32.20 is restated and the rates of duty on certain bolts and nuts of iron or steel are amended.

R.2409 84.63.15: Specific provision, at a rate of duty 15 per cent, is made for power take-off transmission shafts, fitted with a splined quick-release yoke at one or both ends, and splined quick-release yokes.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Sri Lanka

Budget 1977. The 1977 budget speech was made by Sri Lanka's Minister of Finance on 3 November.

Two announcements affecting British interests were made – the intended nationalisation of branches of foreign owned banks which are not themselves nationalised in their own countries (compensation to be paid on the same principles as were followed when foreign owned estates were nationalised) and the withdrawal on 31 March 1977 of Commonwealth tariff preferences extended by Sri Lanka.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5279/5278.

United States

Safe food ingredients. The *Federal Register*, 7 December 1976, published details by the Food and Drug Administration defining the criteria for food ingredients which are generally recognised as safe (GRAS) or subject to prior sanction. The effective date shall be 6 January 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Amendments to rules of practice. Following an earlier announcement in the *Federal Register* of 21 June 1976, the US Patent and Trademark Office has amended its rules on certification of mailing. The changes which were announced in the *Federal Register* of 4 October 1976, are intended to alleviate the problems caused by delays in the postal delivery of papers to the Patent and Trademark Office within the time limits for response by applicants.

The amended rule states that, with certain exceptions, documents will be considered as being timely filed if, prior to the expiration of the time limit, they are correctly addressed, deposited with the US Postal Service with sufficient postage to cover first class mail and if they are accompanied by a certificate stating the date of deposit

A copy of the new rules and specimen certificates are available for inspection in the Chancery House Annexe of the Science Reference Library (Holborn Division), Chancery House, Lower Ground Floor, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1AY.

Imports of speciality steels under quota. The following table, derived from statistics made available by the US Customs Service, shows the products which are subject to quotas, the US quotas on imports from the EEC for the 12 months 14 June 1976 to 13 June 1977, and US imports of the products concerned from the EEC during this period, as at 17 December.

Product	US import quotas for 12 months June 1976 to 13 June 1977 (pounds weight)	US imports during this period as at 17 December (pounds weight)
Sheet and strips of stainless steel (Item 923.20)	31,600,000	20,754,922
Plates of stainless steel (Item 923.21)	5,800,000	4,587,096
Bars of stainless steel (Item 923.22)	5,000,000	408,367
Wire rods of stainless steel (Item 923.23)	14,800,000	13,789,448
Bearing steel (Item 923.25)	7,000,000	1,274,634
Alloy tool steel (Item 923.26)	6,800,000	4,340,208

Uruguay

Use of cyclamates in foodstuffs. Decree 732/976 of 9 November 1976 revokes a previous decree (decree 554/969) which prohibited the use of cyclamates. The use of cyclamate as a substitute for sugar in dietetic foods and drinks is now permitted provided that the container shows the following declaration:

Contains cyclamate. Must not be taken for prolonged periods unless under medical supervision.

An indication of the maximum dose must be given.
A copy of the decree in Spanish is available.
Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

UK businessmen going overseas

British businessmen intending to travel overseas are urged in their own interests to make the earliest possible contact, before going abroad, with the Export Services and Promotions Division of the Department of Trade (at the appropriate regional office for firms outside London, and Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU for firms in London and the South East of England). The department, in co-operation with commercial officers at embassies, high commissions and consulates overseas, is in a position to provide advice when it is required, and to help, where appropriate, in making trade contacts related to the purpose of the visit. Even where a businessman does not require specific assistance it is valuable for him to meet the commercial officers to get up-to-date information about the market. The Department of Trade would therefore welcome receiving notification of any businessmen intending to travel overseas. To enable the overseas commercial officers to be of the greatest assistance to UK visitors the department needs to be able to brief the overseas officers as fully as possible. The range of information required for this purpose includes details of the firm, their products/services and the purpose and background to the visit.

Overseas trade exhibitions

Nigerian exhibition highlights £10m a year market

From John Cole-Morgan, BOTB, Lagos
With more than £600,000 worth of firm orders in their pockets and the prospects of potential orders worth at least £10 million per year for the next two years, the 38 manufacturers of medical supplies and equipment who took part in the UK Nigerian medical seminar and exhibition in Lagos in December returned to Britain for Christmas feeling that this demanding event had been worthwhile.

Nigeria has been a good and rapidly growing market for British medical equipment and pharmaceuticals for some years. Their combined value in 1975 was £31 million. It is not surprising therefore that many of the participants in the exhibition had well established trade relations with Nigeria over many years. GEC Medical for example have been doing business in the country for 28 years, maintaining day-to-day contact with radiologists and radiographers. They are the only people in the whole of Africa with demonstration X-ray diagnostic equipment in their offices. A few of the exhibitors were there to open up new ground and were looking for agents: most were successful.

The exhibition which was organised by the British Overseas Trade Board and the British Health Care Export Council was the biggest of its kind ever held in this now oil rich country. Originally planned for April and postponed because of the attempted coup, the exhibition was timed to give Nigerian doctors and health officials an opportunity to view much of what they will need to equip and run the new hospitals and health care units being built as part of Nigeria's ambitious third nation development plan.

Already 4 per cent of Britain's exports of medical equipment go to Nigeria and the country is Britain's fifth largest trading partner in this field. Currently about a third of Nigeria's imports of medical equipment come from Britain. Britain has established a strong lead in the market and her experience of exporting to Nigeria, the training of many Nigerian doctors in Britain, and the sharing of a common language suggest continued strong demand.

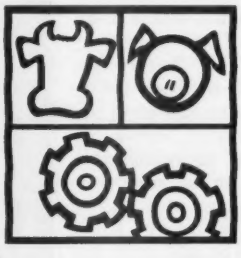
One company reporting good business at the exhibition was Chas. F. Thackray Ltd manufacturers of surgical instruments and hospital furniture who took large orders for obstetric beds, operating tables, instruments and equipment, including endoscopes for which the company this year won a Design Council award.

Another company reporting particularly

Mike Flynn (left) of BOC Medishield demonstrating a Boyle international anaesthetic machine to Dr Dorothy J. O. ffoulkes-Crabbe (right) senior lecturer in anaesthesia, College of Medicine, University of Lagos during the Nigerian medical fair.

agromek

International exhibition of agricultural mechanization equipment, cattle and pigs.



Advanced technical machinery and equipment and select breeders – cattle and pigs – will welcome you in the 10 halls covering 37.000 sqm. at the Exhibition Centre of Herning.
Agromek '77 presents the entire agricultural machinery and mechanization trade in one common exhibition which enables both Danish and foreign buyers to get an overall survey of the market.
Exhibition of select breeders including approx. 100 head of cattle and approx. 30 pigs from the best Danish herds will be presented for the first time.
Agromek '77 is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Information about Agromek'77 can be obtained from the Secretariat: Agromek '77, 35 D Holmetoften, DK-8270 Højbjerg, Denmark.

Organizers:
Danish Manufacturers of Internal Agricultural Mechanization Equipment,
The Association of Danish Manufacturers of Agricultural Machinery and
The Danish Farmers Association.

25.-29. januar 1977 i Herning

ENCIRCLE TI 332 ON PAGE 78 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

good sales was Seward Surgical. One of their instruments which performs minor surgery by destroying tissue within intense cold rather than the knife was selling particularly well. The instrument has been in use in Britain for about five years but is new to Nigeria and was seen as being of particular assistance to the hard pressed Nigerian service as it is self-anaesthetising self-sterilising and self-cauterising, and does not require in-patient care. Each unit costs between £2,000 and £4,000.

For the back-up services Corning Medical, manufacturers of equipment for automatic blood and tissue analysis, estimated that the business they had done during the first three days of the show was worth at least £100,000. EMI Medical Ltd featured on their stand the EMI scanner, computerised diagnostic X-ray system a British first, which has been adopted by hospitals in many parts of the world. They were obviously hopeful that the exhibition would help to bring about the first sale of one of their scanners in Nigeria.

In the opinion of Mr Kevin Hughes, chairman of GEC Medical Equipment Ltd the event was the best medical exhibition ever staged. Most of the exhibitors commented on the high quality of the attendance. For example Miss Ray Linzell, regional manager of the Medishield Corporation, manufacturers of anaesthetic equipment said that they had seen all the anaesthetists they had hoped would attend.

The results will obviously be encouraging for the Department of Health and Social Security which recently issued a circular suggesting ways in which health authorities could help the export drive. The department took a large stand in the exhibition and the Chief Scientist of the Department, Sir Douglas Black and other officials visited Lagos University Teaching Hospital and a Medical Research Centre in the course of their visit.

The problems of servicing technical equipment was one of the principal topics of discussion during the exhibition. Many manufacturers were making arrangements for Nigerian technicians to be trained in their own works in the UK some for periods of up to four months.

Opportunities for UK firms in US plastics market

From H. D. Newcomb, British consulate-general, Chicago

Latest developments and know-how were unveiled by the United States plastics industry at the 1976 National Plastic Exposition held at Chicago's McCormick Place from 6 to 10 December. This was the largest show ever staged by this industry with 450 exhibitors taking part. The upper and lower exhibition halls of McCormick Place were used for a record net 285,000 sq ft. Attendance was about 40,000, which was slightly lower than the 1973 show. Many of the exhibitors felt the decrease was due in part to poor weather conditions in Chicago.

Among the exhibitors were seven British manufacturers who took part in a BOTB joint venture in co-operation with the British Plastics Federation. This was the first UK joint venture at this exhibition.

The companies represented a cross-section of the British plastics industry, with displays ranging from raw materials to finished products.

Most of the UK participants were very pleased with the outcome of the exhibition. Betol Machinery Ltd sold three Twin-Line Extruders worth a total of £40,000. Austin Allen Ltd, who was able to appoint five additional distributors giving the company total US coverage, received over 400 inquiries. Armoride Ltd also reported success in finding representation. Chesta Screenhangers said they received orders valued at £25,000.

Plastics have become an established material deeply entrenched in America. In the years ahead the US plastic market is anticipating an annual growth rate of 8 per cent. The success of this year's joint venture indicated future opportunities do exist. The next exhibition will be held 18 to 23 June 1979, in Chicago.

Britain's first participation in Korean textile exhibition

From R. J. Griffiths, British embassy, Seoul

By participating in the eighth Korea international exhibition of textile machinery (Kitma) in Seoul from 27 November to 3 December, two British firms scored a noteworthy 'first' since no textile machines made in the United Kingdom had previously been on show at this annual exhibition. Crosrol Ltd, Halifax, exhibited its tandem card machine, while the Reliant Tooling Company Ltd had its continuous fusing machine and their quick stacker on display.

The exhibition – at the newly constructed Kosami exhibtion on Yoido Island, Seoul – was opened by the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Chang Yie Joon. For the first time Kitma had a truly international flavour. Besides the UK's contribution, textile machinery manufactured in France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States was on display. The exhibition organisers state that some 89,000 people attended during the course of the seven days of the exhibition.

Mr W. S. Bates, British ambassador to Korea, visited the exhibition with staff of the embassy commercial department. Kitma is the second exhibition to be held at the new Kosami exhibition hall. It will be followed from 17 to 22 January by the first all-British exhibition to be held in Korea, sponsored by the Gauge and Tool Makers Association.

Paris environment week an imaginative venture

From Robert Hyde, British embassy, Paris.

Porte de Versailles exhibition park in Paris was the venue for the second Semaine Internationale de l'Environnement from 7 to 11 December 1976. The event brought together for the first time three related exhibitions, and Britain had joint ventures in two of them.

Eleven British companies sponsored by the Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce took part in the joint venture at the first Salon International des Techniques Air-Bruits-Déchets-Eaux et de Lutte Contre les Pollutions et les Nuisances Industrielles et Urbaines (Environnement-Expo).

A further six firms were sponsored by the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers Association at the fourth Salon International du Nettoyage, Matériels, Produits, Services pour Collectivités, Commerce, Industrie (Internet 'Expo).

Denis Howell, Minister for Sport, Recreation and Water at the Department of Environment, was an official guest of Vincent Ansquer, Ministre de la Qualité de la Vie, on the opening day of environment week and at the associated Assizes Internationales de l'Environnement inaugurated on 6 December. Mr Howell visited the joint ventures on the following day.

The Paris environment week was a courageous and imaginative venture, and most of the British exhibitors were generally satisfied by their participation.

Some were already doing good business with French government departments and one had been specifically requested to exhibit. As a result of contacts arranged by the embassy, one firm received recently an order worth £20,000 from the Ministère de la Qualité de la Vie for noise control equipment. The number of inquiries was considered satisfactory; most of them were from French sources but some firms also reported interest from third countries.

Denis Howell, Minister for Sport, Recreation and Water at the Department of the Environment on the Columbus Dixon stand at the Paris environment week.

Overseas trade export services

Berlin east-west trading centre opens

Small and medium-sized UK firms wishing to sell goods to Comecon countries can now take advantage of a service provided by Berlin (West) where a new international centre for east-west co-operation has opened its doors.

Usually only the largest companies have had the resources and experience to trade with east European countries. Now, the new centre has been set up specifically to cater for the needs of smaller firms wanting to trade with the east, but deterred from doing so because they lack the know-how, contacts and experience.

The new centre offers five principal services: first, by co-ordinating requests and offers for co-operative ventures between enterprises from east and west and helping firms to find partners; second, by providing expert advice about drawing up contracts; third, by finding markets for goods supplied by eastern enterprises supplied under compensation deals; fourth, by commissioning market research; and, fifth, by bringing together eastern and western enterprises for plant construction deals and consulting engineering in a third Comecon country.

The new centre is a limited liability company whose shareholders comprise the Berlin Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Berlin Marketing Council, the Federation of West German Industry and the West German Chambers of Commerce and Industry. It will work closely with trade ministries, industrial firms, scientific institutions and overseas chambers of commerce.

Autotelex to Egypt

Britain's telex links to Egypt went automatic on 6 December. This brings to 103 the number of countries which UK telex users can dial direct instead of having to be connected by an operator.

British firms have been making about 12,000 operator-connected calls a month to Egypt. Major users include the cotton, oil and chemical industries, and invisible export interests.

Automatic service to Egypt costs 90p per minute with a one-minute minimum charge.

Other countries in the Middle East with autotelex from Britain include Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Accommodation in Moscow hotel

Barry Martin Travel Ltd, (BMT), now have a permanent allocation of rooms at the Hotel National in Moscow.

The hotel is situated opposite the Kremlin and Red Square, is only 20 yards from the metro. The cost per day with BMT at the Hotel National, for single room with bath, including breakfast, is £35.50.

Transcar launches new shipment service to Nigeria

A new trans-shipment service to Nigeria via the Republic of Benin has been started by Transcar UK Ltd. They have signed an exclusive agreement with a major Nigerian agent who will clear goods shipped to Cotonou and effect delivery to any destination in Nigeria.

This new service is ideally suited for British exporters sending out large or bulky consignments, such as sugar, as the Nigerian ports authorities, in an endeavour to ease their congestion problems, are limiting the amount of cargo to be carried by incoming ships. This in turn has limited the commodities that can effectively be shipped directly to Nigeria.

Transcar are established as forwarders to Nigeria where the company has two appointed agents – one handling cars and general cargo, the other household and personal effects. Traffic to Cotonou will be shipped in Conference Line vessels with Transcar taking care of all documentation and insurance.

Increasing trunking capacity for Mcgregor Swire

McGregor Swire Air Services, the international airfreight forwarder, has increased its trunking capacity with the addition of a new articulated vehicle. This will be used to cater for the recent 80 per cent increase in the volume of traffic originating from the Midlands and North West.

The vehicle comprises a Ford D1000 tractor unit coupled to a 40ft Scammell trailer. The vehicle has 12m³ volume capacity and 20 tons weight capacity.

The nightly round trip for the new trunk vehicle starts from MSAS at Colnbrook at about 1600 hours, offloading import deliveries for the Midlands and North West at MSAS' Birmingham station, three hours later. MSAS feeder vehicles deliver export freight to Birmingham from Leicester and Manchester in the early evening ready to be loaded onto the trunk vehicle for departure at 2300 hours. The round trip ends at 0200 hours back at Colnbrook, when the export is delivered ready for inclusion in the consolidations delivered to carrying airlines during the early hours of the morning.

Meadows use telex to eliminate potential delays

Thomas Meadows and Co Ltd, international freight forwarders, has further refined its range of weekly driver-accompanied TIR trailer groupage services between the UK and Switzerland.

Every export shipment moved into Switzerland via Meadows' trailer groupage services is now pre-advised by telex to Danzas AG, Meadows Swiss partners, in Basle to eliminate the potential documentation handling delays which can penalise delivery times.

Working with Danzas, Meadows now provides weekly export trailer groupage services to and from Basle, Zurich and

News of services for exporters

If your company has recently introduced a new service for exporters – in, for example, the packing, forwarding, shipping, airfreighting, banking or translation fields – we would be glad to have details, plus a good black and white photograph where appropriate.

Items for inclusion in our fortnightly 'Export Services' feature should be addressed to the Overseas Editor, 'Trade and Industry', Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1.

Advertisers who wish to be associated with this feature should contact Mike White at T. G. Scott's on 01-242 6264.

Geneva. For UK exporters, there are scheduled regional departures from London, Leicester, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Meadows also offers a scheduled weekly groupage service to Chiasso, via rail wagon, and serving both Switzerland and the markets of northern Italy.

Direct London to Toulouse service

Emery Air Freight has introduced a regular daily air cargo service from Heathrow direct to Toulouse, designed primarily to meet the requirements of the aerospace industries in southern France.

The new service came into operation on 1 December.

Freightliners reach agreement providing transport to Iran

Freightliners Ltd, the national road/rail haulage company, has agreed on a 'package deal' with James Fisher and Sons Ltd, UK agents for the Star Line Euro-Container Service, to provide transport facilities to Iran.

Star Line started a new export service between Felixstowe and the Iranian port of Bandar Shahpur on 15 December. Under the new agreement Freightliners will move containers from main inland terminals in the UK to their terminal at Felixstowe dock. Freightliners expect about 250 to 300 Star Line containers each month.

At first, the shipping line will call at Felixstowe every 46 days. The British registered vessel *Star Blackford*, which has a capacity of 817 trailer equivalent units, will be first in service. A second ship will join the operation in March next year when shipments will be made about every three weeks.

Carol starts Caribbean container service

Caribbean Overseas Lines (Carol) started its joint container service between Europe and the Caribbean/east coast of Central America on 6 December (see page 44). This is the first direct full container service between Europe and the Caribbean.

Carol says the schedule will build up to a fortnightly frequency from about February, every 10 days from May and weekly in the autumn. And a round voyage time of 42 days is predicted.

The following Caribbean and Central America ports will be served: Bridgetown (Barbados), Port-of-Spain (Trinidad), Willemstad (Curaçao), Oranjestad (Aruba), San Juan (Puerto Rico), Rio Haina (Dominican Republic), Port-au-Prince (Haiti), Kingston (Jamaica), Santo Tomas de Castilla (Guatemala) and Puerto Cortes (Honduras). In due course, Belize will be included by feeder operation from and to Puerto Cortes.

LEP introduces Lyons-London trailer service

Lep Transport London has introduced a a weekly groupage trailer service from the important business centre of Lyons.

Operated in conjunction with one of Lyons leading agents, Société Lyonnaise des Messageries Nationales (SLMN), the trailers will leave SLMN's Lyons depot, travel to the UK via Le Havre/Southampton and discharge at Lep Transport's Sunlight Wharf depot, London.

Outsize export by Seabee

The first of a new generation of Seabee barges, a 770 tons capacity specially-designed heavy lift, flat deck type for the transport of unusual heavy or oversize shipments via the Lykes Lines Seabee service, loaded its first UK export consignment in London's Royal Albert Dock on Wednesday, 15 December.

The £400,000, 86-tonne load was an air separation column cold box of unusual size and additional equipment built by Cryoplant of London for a chemical plant under construction in the United States (see *Trade and Industry* 10 December 1976, p. 755).

Arabic and Farsi typesetting service in London

A new company, Tek Arabic and Farsi Typesetting Ltd, has been formed to provide in London an Arabic and Farsi translation and typesetting service inside Britain.

Tek Arabic offers a complete service of Arabic and Farsi translators, technically qualified writers from the Middle East, editorial control as well as full typesetting and production facilities.

New cargo liner services directory published

A new edition of the Cargo liner services directory has been published by the British Transport Docks Board. The directory is a comprehensive guide for exporters to the cargo liner services operating from the docks board's 19 ports, to destinations all over the world.

Details of each service include the frequency of sailing and the ship's agents. Agents' addresses at each port are listed in a separate section, together with a location map for each port.

Northampton depot clears 1,000 consignments per month

The Northampton Clearance Depot is now handling approximately 1,000 clearances per month of groupage and full-load consignments. The depot provides companies with the full range of customs, warehousing, and ancillary facilities to enable them to handle all freighting requirements economically and effectively.

Atlas moves concrete mixers

Atlas Air Services, the charter associate of AtlasAir recently handled a consignment of 50 concrete mixers destined for the Arab Gulf Equipment Co at Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The consignment, valued at £134,000, was carried in three Boeing 747 freighters from the all-cargo carrier Trans Mediterranean Airways.

Suppliers of the concrete mixers are Benford Ltd, a subsidiary of Benford Concrete Machinery of Warwick.

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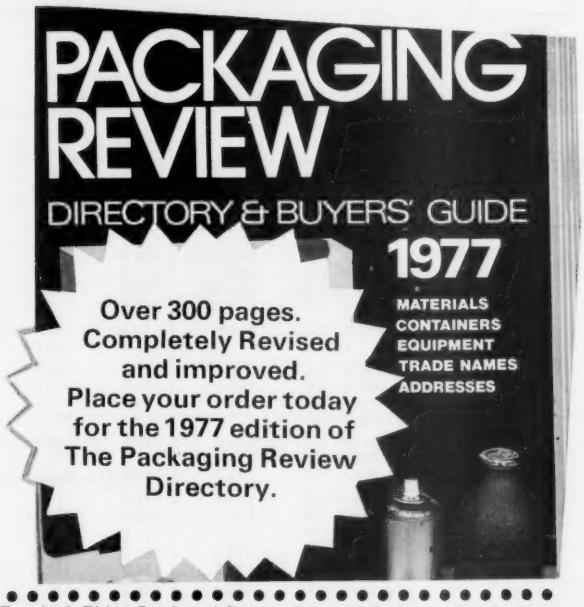

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JAPAN

DISSATISFIED WITH THE LIMITED RESULTS ACHIEVED THROUGH AGENTS AND DISTRIBUTORS?

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES await enterprising British manufacturers in the form of joint venture operations, wholly owned subsidiaries, branch sales operations and technological licence agreements in Japan. But in order to ensure that the best possible advantage is taken of such opportunities, it is absolutely essential to appoint a local representative possessing the necessary expertise and connections to act on your behalf. As Advisers and Consultants with years of experience of partner hunting and negotiations with Japanese manufacturers in the above sectors, we are pleased to offer our specialised services, which also include market research.

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Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
				of which			of which					
			Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	Manufacturing industry	Wholesalers	Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index Series in Stock level at end-1975	1970	£ million	£ million			£ million				£ million		
						18,209	10,399	1,807	1,976			
1970	100	31,644	9,453	2,130	1,799	442	325	68	−14	733	−25	758
1971	102	32,505	9,681	1,991	1,930	99	−148	52	22	1,084	280	804
1972	104	34,402	9,870	1,739	2,071	39	−145	48	15	154	−702	856
1973	110	35,935	10,279	1,872	2,362	1,127	404	102	382	−736	−2,334	1,598
1974	110	35,612	10,087	2,024	2,251	604	666	81	−111	−3,347	−5,220	1,873
1975	108	35,374	9,967	1,737	1,964	−699	−392	−111	−23	−1,673	−3,204	1,531
1973 4th qtr	110	8,986	2,584	467	615	197	91	32	47	−395	−949	554
1974 1st qtr	106	8,853	2,594	510	591	−105	−21	18	−38	−822	−1,288	466
2nd qtr.	111	8,814	2,436	502	562	321	197	43	19	−858	−1,355	497
3rd qtr.	112	8,956	2,476	501	548	330	358	3	−39	−763	−1,242	479
4th qtr.	111	8,989	2,581	511	550	58	133	17	−53	−904	−1,335	431
1975 1st qtr.	110	8,989	2,533	471	497	−126	18	−31	−38	−452	−852	400
2nd qtr.	108	8,851	2,460	444	495	−269	−105	−54	−66	−366	−681	315
3rd qtr.	107	8,776	2,528	416	496	−214	−234	−29	38	−561	−989	428
4th qtr.	108	8,758	2,446	406	476	−90	−70	4	43	−294	−682	388
1976 1st qtr.	109	8,866	2,448	402	460	22	31	23	12	−39	−473	434
2nd qtr.	108	8,789	2,375	408	474	−161	−115	−22	−55	−553	−1,040	487
3rd qtr.		8,850 pe		418 p	472 p		17 p	−6 p	22 p	−734	−1,214	480
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	+1.3	+0.1	−3.0	+2.2	+1.1							
on a year earlier	−0.1	+0.1	−3.4	−4.0	−4.5							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Visible Trade (Volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices		Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry		Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students		Unfilled vacancies for adults	Export	Import
				monthly averages		% increase on a year earlier	basic materials and fuel used	manufactured products: home sales		mid-month count	% of total employees	mid-month count	On a balance of payments basis	
	at 1970 prices		at 1971 prices										at 1970 prices	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1970	1970	1971 15,895	thousands	Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972	thousands		thousands	1970 7,907	1970 7,932
1971	100.5	99.7	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	106.7	104.2
1972	102.7	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	854.9	3.7	147.3	106.6	116.3
1973	110.3	110.0	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	121.8	133.9
1974	106.4	108.2	109.9	102 8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.5ø	2.6ø	302.2ø	130.1	135.2
1975	101.2	101.7	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	179.8	929.0	3.9	148.2ø	124.9	125.6
1974 3rd qtr.	108.2	109.9	111.2	107	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	613.7	2.6	308.7	133.4	136.4
4th qtr.	104.9	106.0	111.3	97	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	126.5	133.0
1975 1st qtr.	104.7	106.1	111.3	108	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	737.8	3.1	..	128.9	125.4
2nd qtr.	100.3	100.5	108.9	94	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	847.4	3.6	164.4	122.6	122.2
3rd qtr.	99.6	99.7	105 5	103	139.4	26.6	239.3	193.4	185.5	1,000.0	4.2	133.6	120.0	127.4
4th qtr.	100.4	100.4	105.8	84	144.2	25.3	256.1	199.1	193.8	1,132.1	4.8	113.6	128.3	127.2
1976 1st qtr.	101.9	101.8	107.3	106	149.4	22.5	266.5	206.9	205.5	1,223.2	5.2	115.5	131.6	124.0
2nd qtr.	102.1	103.2	106.7	106	154.9	16.0	292.6	214.4	212.8	1,246.5	5.3	119.6	137.1	137.1
3rd qtr.	101.6	102.6	108.7	97	158.5	13.7	306.8	223.2	218.6	1,307.5	5.5	124.7	132.8	137.2
1975 Nov.	100.7	100.9	105.2	81	144.2	25.2	256.7	198.9	195.6	1,133.0	4.8	111.8	123.4	128.0
Dec.	99.8	99.5	107.0	87	146.0	24.9	259.5	201.5	198.2	1,174.6	5.0	110.1	130.9	124.7
1976 Jan.	101.2	101.7	109.8	115	147.9	23.4	261.5	204.8	202.1	1,210.5	5.1	111.1	131.5	125.1
Feb.	102.5	102.0	107.1	101	149.8	22.9	263.9	207.3	206.4	1,232.4	5.2	113.5	128.4	127.0
Mar.	102.0	101.8	105.5	101	150.6	21.2	274.2	208.6	207.9	1,226.6	5.2	122.0	134.9	119.9
Apr.	102.1	102.9	108.5	118	153.5	18.9	286.3	211.5	210.1	1,233.7	5.2	123.9	134.8	134.0
May	104.3	106.1	105.7	112	155.2	15.4	292.0	214.8	211.7	1,250.0	5.3	120.6	138.2	139.7
June	100.0	100.4	106.1	88	156.0	13.8	299.6	217.0	216.6	1,255.7	5.3	114.3	138.4	137.7
July	101.7	103.0	108.3	87	156.3	12.9	302.0	219.8	218.5	1,294.6	5.5	117.6	129.8	140.0
Aug.	100.8	101.7	108.9	115	158.5	13.8	304.0	223.4	218.6	1,309.4	5.6	127.5	132.1	131.4
Sept.	102.4	103.2	108.8	88	160.6	14.3	314.4	226.3	218.7	1,318.6	5.6	129.0	136.6	140.1
Oct.	102.5	103.3	107.3	104	163.5	14.7	327.8p	229.9 p	218.7 p	1,305.4	5.5	126.2 p	140.1 p	142.7 p
Nov.			109 p	114p	165.8	15.0	331.9p	233.8 p						
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	−0.1	−0.4	+0.7	+5.5	+4.1		+7.6	+4.5	+1.4	+3.5		+8.6	+½	−½
on a year earlier	+2.1	+2.9	+2.8	+7.0	+14.7		+29.5	+16.8	+17.3	+26.1		−0.8	+11	+10

p Provisional pe Preliminary estimate † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available ø Average of 11 months

Inquiries: 01-215 3453

Index of retail prices for November 1976

The index of retail prices for all items for 16 November 1976 was 165.8 (15 January 1974 = 100). This represents an increase of 1.4 per cent on October 1976 (163.5) and of 15.0 per cent on November 1975 (144.2).

The rise in the index in November was due to increases in the prices of most foods (particularly fresh fruit and vegetables and other seasonal foods, tea and coffee); to increases in motoring costs, including petrol; to increases in average charges for gas and other fuels; and to increases in the prices of many other goods and services.

The movements for the main groups of the index are shown in table 2.

Notes

The index covers a large and representative selection of nearly 350 separate goods and services, for which price movements are regularly measured. The number of quotations used in compiling the November 1976 index was however less than normal because of industrial action by some employees of the Department of Employment.

TABLE 1

	All items			All items except seasonal foods		
	Index 15 Jan 1974 = 100	Percentage change over		Index Jan 15 1974 = 100	Percentage change over	
		1 month	12 months		1 month	6 months
1976						
June	156.0	+0.5	+13.8	155.4	+0.8	+6.4
July	156.3	+0.2	+12.9	156.8	+0.9	+6.2
August	158.5	+1.4	+13.8	158.5	+1.1	+6.4
September	160.6	+1.3	+14.3	160.0	+0.9	+7.0
October	163.5	+1.8	+14.7	162.8	+1.8	+7.0
November	165.8	+1.4	+15.0	164.8	+1.2	+6.9

TABLE 2 **General index of retail prices**

	Indices (15 January 1974 = 100)		Percentage change over the month
	12 October 1976	16 Nov. 1976	
All items	163.5	165.8	+1.4
All items excluding food	161.8	163.8	+1.2
Food	169.3	172.7	+2.0
Seasonal food	184.0	192.8	+4.8
Other food	166.8	169.1	+1.4
Alcoholic drink	164.5	165.8	+0.8
Tobacco	175.0	178.1	+1.8
Housing	147.5	147.9	+0.3
Fuel and light	191.3	194.9	+1.9
Durable household goods	150.0	151.0	+0.7
Clothing and footwear	144.5	145.9	+1.0
Transport and vehicles	171.7	175.4	+2.2
Miscellaneous goods	167.5	169.4	+1.1
Services	163.4	164.2	+0.5
Meals out	164.4	167.0	+1.6

Index of retail sales in Northern Ireland in October

The seasonally adjusted index of the value of retail sales in Northern Ireland for October was 263 (1965 = 100), 21 per cent more than in October 1975.

After allowing for price changes, the total volume of sales in October increased by about 3 per cent compared with the corresponding period last year.

The seasonally adjusted index numbers of the value of sales in October and the percentage increases on a year earlier for the main groups of traders are shown below. More detailed information can be obtained from the Department of Commerce, Index of Retail Sales, 21 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BZ (tel. Belfast (0232) 28081, ext. 140).

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half the final digit shown	* five week period
p provisional	e fifty-three week period

		October 1976	
Sales by:	Sales in 1965 – £m	Seasonally adjusted value index numbers 1965 = 100	Percentage increases
All kinds of business	219	263	21
Food shops	97	282	24
Non-food shops	122	244	18
Of which:			
Clothing and footwear shops	36	218	17
Durable goods shops	21	231	28
Miscellaneous non-food shops	43	301	16
Department and general stores	22	195	18

New companies registered in Northern Ireland during November

During November 1976, 55 private companies with a total nominal capital of £1,379,400 were incorporated, and one public company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital was also incorporated.

During the period January to November 1976, 543 companies with a total nominal capital of £16,223,560 were incorporated as compared with 515 companies with a total nominal capital of £14,596,997 in the same period in 1975.

Economic Trends Annual Supplement 1976

The *Economic Trends Annual Supplement*, published on 21 December shows that real personal disposable income more than doubled between 1948 and 1975, while personal saving was 14.0 per cent of personal disposable income in 1975 compared with 0.2 per cent in 1948.

Basic weekly wage rates of manufacturing industry increased by nearly 310 per cent between 1956-75.

During the 27 years from 1948 to 1975, the internal purchasing power of the pound fell by some 75 per cent.

There was a startling rise in the average prices of new dwellings on mortgage, which increased by over 435 per cent between 1956 and 1975.

These are some of the comparisons that can be drawn from the second edition of the supplement, published by the Central Statistical Office.

The annual supplement brings together long runs of quarterly and annual data for the key series of economic statistics and should be of especial value to economists, planners, analysts etc.

Some 300 series are included, rebased to give continuous runs as far back as possible in the post-war period. About half span 25 years or more.

Tables in the supplement are backed by concise notes and definitions and an index to further, more detailed sources. There is also a new section covering main economic events between January 1974 and June 1976. This replaces the 'Calendar of economic events' article previously published annually in the monthly *Economic Trends*.

The 189-page *Annual Supplement* comes as part of the annual subscription to *Economic Trends* – and *Economic Trends* can be used throughout the year to update it. Or it can be purchased separately. It can be ordered from HMSO in London or from HMSO's regional bookshops and agents.

Research shows 98 per cent of manufacturing plants free of strikes in average year

Three years of detailed research by the Department of Employment have come up with some new facts about Britain's strike record and throw serious doubt upon the validity of the poor reputation which must have played a prominent part in losing key overseas orders in recent years.

The research programme set out to put the statistics on the number of stoppages and days lost through industrial strife which are collected month by month, under the microscope to see what they really showed about the kinds of industries which had a strike problem, and also to see how widespread a problem there was in different parts of the country.

The results so far published have proved surprising even to those engaged upon the research. They admit that they had expected to find a fairly evenly spread problem, both in terms of the industries affected and in terms of the geographical distribution and concentration of strikes.

Instead the analysis has shown beyond doubt that the strike problem is not only concentrated within a few industry groups, with the vast majority experiencing few if any stoppages in an average year, but also that within the manufacturing sector, crucially important in terms of exports and overseas investment potential, in an average year for industrial action 98 per cent of plants can expect to be strike free. The three years under scrutiny were 1971 to 1973, a period when the overall strike picture was particularly poor.

First indications that Britain's strike record may have been seriously misrepresented both at home and overseas, came in February this year when an analysis in the *Department of Employment Gazette* showed that in an eight-year period more than 30 per cent of stoppages and over 42 per cent of working days lost occurred in a very few industries – coal mining, the docks, motor manufacturing and ship building. This research also confirmed the fact that the amount of strike activity drastically declined with the size of the plant.

But the really startling results of the research came in November 1976 with the publication of more detailed analyses relating to the manufacturing sector alone. Manufacturing is probably the key area in terms of being at risk through strike action, accounting, as it does, for 80 per cent of the country's export earnings and being the area liable to profit most from growth and new capital investment from home and from overseas. The figure of 98 per cent of plants unaffected by any strikes in an average year, means in effect in a typical working day as many as 60,000 manufacturing plants will be strike-free while as few as 100 will actually experience a strike.

The explanation for these encouraging figures is not, as one might expect, that all the affected concerns are the smaller ones with the least number of employees. A further sift of the figures revealed that the strike-free plants employed 80 per cent of the manufacturing sector's labour force. The researchers add that this in itself is an overstatement of the involvement of workers in strikes since many employees working in plants where strikes occur will not be involved personally in industrial action.

In an effort to discover whether the data would show a significant hard core of the manufacturing sector which could truly be said to have a serious strike problem, the plants that had any stoppages at all were examined in isolation. This showed that only 5 per cent in manufacturing industry were affected in any way. Of those affected a disproportionately high level of both strikes and working days lost – a quarter of the stoppages and at least two-thirds of the working days lost occurred in only one in 20 plants. The assumption must be, therefore, that a great deal of Britain's so-called strike problem is in fact concentrated in an extremely small minority of manufacturing plants.

The research into concentration of strikes by plant has not been carried out in the non-manufacturing sector of British industry since it would present problems of definition difficult to surmount. In retail distribution for example, every single shop might qualify as a separate plant. Since there are very few strikes in the retail trade in an average year, the proportion of individual premises to experience stoppages must be infinitely small, say the researchers. Elsewhere in the non-manufacturing sector, general analysis has shown that much of the total strike activity occurs in docks, coalmining and to some extent in construction, road haulage and fishing. In the service sector strike activity is negligible. The Department of Employment's research team therefore feel that even if it were possible to reproduce the kind of detailed analysis of the non-manufacturing as well as the manufacturing sector it would show that the total number of plants and premises affected by strikes in an average year was extremely small. Though they are not claiming that Britain does not have a strike problem at all, they are coming round to the viewpoint that it's a very different kind of problem to the one that has been generally assumed both by ourselves and overseas observers.

The different regions of the country have also been analysed for strike activity levels. On the geographical side it is clear that differences exist in the extent of strike activity between one area and another. These are only partly explained by variations in the industrial structure.

What is evident from the analysis is that in every region strikes are concentrated in a small minority of manufacturing plants, in much the same way as has been shown across the country as a whole. Particularly revealing from a potential investment point of view is that an area such as Merseyside, with a long established poor reputation for 'strike-proneness,' has 19 out of every 20 manufacturing plants which in an average year will not experience a strike. This, say the team, tends to scotch the often quoted theory that strikes 'spread' from one plant to another. The relatively higher level of strike activity in the worst affected regions is due to the particularly poor performance of a few plants, rather than some generalised increase in the levels across the board.

Analysis of an industry with a traditionally poor reputation, like the car industry, also shows the same factors applying. In an average year this industry, too, had nine in every 10 plants, strike free, although these tended to be the smaller ones.

The Department of Employment is viewing these research findings as being of major importance. Indications from the half-yearly strike figures for 1976 that the year as a whole will be one of the most trouble-free since the war, have already prompted a call from Albert Booth, the Employment Secretary, for a reappraisal internationally of Britain's industrial relations position. Findings like these latest, showing as they do that an investor with average industrial relations skills who opens a plant in any part of the country is more likely to stay free of industrial strife than not, can only fuel this process.

UK exports: invoicing in foreign currencies

With the fluctuations in currency exchange rates, and in particular the decline in the sterling exchange rate, there is an increasing interest in how much of the UK's overseas trade is invoiced in foreign currencies. This information is not required on customs export and import entry forms, on which the overseas trade statistics are based but customs do receive copies of commercial invoices for a selection of shipments.

A sample of these invoices, for export shipments in April 1976, was examined to discover the extent of invoicing in foreign currencies.

The proportion of exports, in value terms, invoiced in foreign currencies was 20 per cent. This figure was made up of 12 per cent of invoices in the importing countries' own currency (excluding US dollars) and 8 per cent in US dollars. There were very few examples of invoicing in foreign currencies other than US dollars or those of the importing countries.

It seems likely that the overall proportion of foreign currency invoicing has been rising relative to its more traditional level – earlier very limited work has suggested a proportion of 10 per cent to 15 per cent – and the decline of the sterling exchange rate since the spring may have led to a further increase in the proportion. The overall figure of 20 per cent, while not based on a fully random sample of

TABLE 1 UK exports: Invoicing currency analysis by area

Percentages by value

	EEC	Other Western European countries	Oil exporting countries	North America	Latin America	Centrally planned economics	Japan	Rest of world	Total all countries
Invoiced in own currency	15	8	—	30	—	—	—	2	11.7
Invoiced in US dollars	5	7	9		45	24	30	11	7.9
Invoiced in other foreign currency	1	1	0	—	1	0	—	2	0.7
Invoiced in sterling	79	84	91	70	54	76	70	85	79.7

Note: — means no trade: 0 means trade of less than 0.5% of area total.

invoices, is probably fairly reliable in view of the size of the sample (some 2,700 invoices). It should be noted, however, that it may possibly significantly under-state the proportion of exports for which pricing is effectively in foreign currency terms since the precise financing arrangements for the transaction cannot always be inferred from the invoices, eg it is likely that some companies will consign goods invoiced in sterling to a subsidiary or branch company or an agent, who will then re-invoice them to the foreign purchaser in local currency.

A breakdown, in terms of markets, of the overall results is given in table 1. (The exact percentages in this table should be interpreted with caution, in view of the limited size of the sample.) These results underline the importance of the US dollar as an invoicing currency; most of the markets showing above average proportions of foreign currency invoicing are largely or entirely invoiced in dollars. One important reason for this could be the facility with which forward cover on expected proceeds in dollar terms can be obtained, enabling exporters to take advantage of any prevailing forward discount on sterling and to have assurance of the sterling value of the proceeds.

Table 2 gives details in terms of the main commodity groupings of exports. These results could be largely a reflection of the market pattern of exports rather than of independent significance. It is also possible that the results for some of these groupings are subject to the general proviso mentioned above on the extent to which invoices may not necessarily fully reveal financing arrangements.

It is hoped, subject to resources being available, to repeat and perhaps expand the extent of analysis in future investigations and also to analyse imports similarly.

TABLE 2 UK exports: Invoicing currency analysis by commodity group

Percentages by value

	Foreign currency invoicing proportion
Food, beverages and tobacco	27
Fuels and basic materials	22
Chemicals	25
Textiles	31
Metals and articles of metal	31
Electrical machinery apparatus and appliances	9
Other machinery	18
Transport equipment	5
Other manufactured goods	21
Total	20.3

Release dates of economic statistics to be published in January

This notice is issued by the Central Statistical Office on behalf of the Government Statistical Service and other organisations as a guide to the dates of publication of major economic series in January. The dates are those which departments, or other organisations concerned, are aiming at, and would normally expect to meet. Exceptionally, there may be a delay resulting from unavoidable statistical problems of collection and compilation. Further inquiries about individual series should be addressed to the source named.

Publication date	Series	Method of release	Source
January			
5 Wed	London clearing banks monthly statement (mid-Dec)	PN	CLCB
	Capital issues and redemptions (Dec)	PN	Bank of England
	UK banks' eligible liabilities reserve assets, reserve ratios and special deposits (mid-Dec)	PN	Bank of England
	UK official reserves (Dec)	PN	HM Treasury
	Investment intentions of the manufacturing, distributive and service industries (1977 and 1978)	PN	Department of Industry
6 Thurs	Unemployment (Nov-final)	Gazette	Department of Employment
	Employment in production industries (Oct)	Gazette	Department of Employment
	Overtime and short-time working in manufacturing industries (Oct)	Gazette	Department of Employment
	Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes (Nov)	Gazette	Department of Employment
10 Mon	CBI Industrial Trends Inquiry (Dec)	PN	CBI
	Turnover of the catering trades (Nov)	PN	Department of Industry
	Wholesale price index numbers (Dec-prov)	PN	Department of Industry
11 Tues	Hire purchase and other instalment credit business (Nov)	PN	Department of Industry
	Retail sales (Nov-final)	PN	Department of Industry
	Provisional figures of vehicle production and estimates of new car registrations (Dec – prov)	PN	Department of Industry
	Personal income, expenditure and savings (3rd qtr); gross domestic product (3rd qtr – rev)	PN	CSO
12 Wed	Central Government financial transactions (including borrowing requirement) (Dec)	PN	HM Treasury
	Housing starts and completions (Nov)	PN	Department of the Environment
	House renovation grants approved (Nov)	PN	Department of the Environment
14 Fri	Usable steel production (Dec)	PN	BSC/BISPA
	Building Societies' receipts and loans (Dec)	PN	BSA
17 Mon	UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid-Dec)	PN	Bank of England
	London dollar and sterling certificates of deposit (mid-Dec)	PN	Bank of England
	Retail sales (Dec – prov)	PN	Department of Industry
	Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (Dec)	PN	Department of Trade/ CSO
18 Tues	Index of industrial production (Nov)	PN	CSO
19 Wed	Basic rates of wages and normal weekly hours (Dec)	PN	Department of Employment
	Monthly index of average earnings (Nov)	PN	Department of Employment
20 Thurs	Consumers' expenditure (1st preliminary estimate) (4th qtr)	PN	CSO
	Appropriation account of industrial and commercial companies (3rd qtr)	PN	CSO
	Financial accounts of industrial and commercial companies and personal sectors (3rd qtr)	PN	CSO
	Net acquisition of financial assets – analysis by sector (3rd qtr)	PN	CSO
21 Fri	Sales and orders in the engineering industries (Oct)	Trade and Industry	Department of Industry
	New vehicle registrations (Dec)	PN	Department of Transport
	Retail prices index (Dec)	PN	Department of Employment
23 Sun	National Savings monthly progress report (Dec)	PN	National Savings Committee
25 Tues	Unemployment (Jan – prov)	PN	Department of Employment
	Unfilled vacancies (Jan – prov)	PN	Department of Employment
26 Wed	Construction – new orders (Nov)	PN	Department of the Environment
27 Thurs	Car and commercial vehicle production (Dec – final)	PN	Department of Industry
	Energy Trends	PN	Department of Energy
28 Fri	Bricks and cement production (Dec)	PN	Department of the Environment
31 Mon	Building society house prices and mortgage advances (4th qtr)	PN	Department of the Environment

PN = Press Notice.

Activity in the chemicals industry

Output

There was only a small rise in output during the summer months after the strong recovery shown earlier in the year. The hesitation resulted mainly from sluggish domestic demand although the rate of increase in exports also moderated. It seems unlikely that there will be a strong stimulus to demand in the latter part of the year and in consequence the rise in output for 1976 as a whole may fall short of the 10 per cent increase previously expected.

Prospects for 1977 are now not as bright as they were three months ago. The National Institute of Economic and Social Research, in their November Economic Review, forecast that Gross Domestic Product would rise by 1¾ per cent in 1977, and that World Trade would rise by 10 per cent. The NIESR forecast was made before the Chancellor's mini-budget and although the December measures should have only a small effect on the production of chemicals, it now seems likely that the rise in output will be little more than 5 per cent in 1977.

Trade

As a result of the slowing down of the expansion of some major foreign markets, the very strong growth in the volume of exports recorded in the first quarter of 1976 has not been sustained, and there has been little change in the second and third quarters. As overseas activity picks up again exports can be expected to rise strongly; there were indications in October and November that this might have begun.

The volume of imports has taken slightly longer to recover from the recession than exports, and has been very volatile in recent months, so the immediate outlook is uncertain. In the first three quarters of 1976 import volume was over 20 per cent higher than the average for 1975 as a whole and although a rise of this order was consistent with the recovery in home demand it was perhaps higher than might have been expected in view of the high proportion of firms reported to be working at below capacity in the Confederation of British Industries Industrial Trends Survey for October.

Prices

Output prices rose by 3½ per cent in the third quarter of 1976, much the same increase as in the previous quarter. Prices have risen steadily for the past year and there are as yet no signs of a slowing in the rate of increase. Output prices in the third quarter were 14½ per cent higher than in the same period a year ago – about the same increase as in the Retail Prices Index over the same period.

The price of materials and fuels purchased rose by about 5 per cent in the third quarter following a sharper rise of 7 per cent in the previous quarter. These steep rises in input prices, caused partly by the depreciation in sterling, may be expected to feed through into output prices, thus making it even more difficult to slow their rate of increase.

TABLE 1 Index of production

Index numbers 1970 = 100, seasonally adjusted

MLH		1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1975 1st qtr	1975 2nd qtr	1975 3rd qtr	1975 4th qtr	1976 1st qtr p	1976 2nd qtr p	1976 3rd qtr p	% change last quarter on: Previous quarter	% change last quarter on: Same quarter a year earlier
271	General chemicals	100.7	104.5	119.2	134.9	114.0	120.6	106.8	108.8	119.7	123.9	129.6	128.3	−1	18
271/1	Inorganic chemicals	101.1	99.2	109.2	114.7	95.7	107.4	92.5	91.0	91.8	98.3	104.8	109.5	4	20
271/2	Organic chemicals	102.8	115.3	137.6	165.5	136.5	137.7	124.2	129.1	155.1	155.5	167.2	163.6	−2	27
271/3	Other chemicals	97.8	97.7	108.9	121.4	108.2	115.5	102.4	105.0	109.7	115.7	113.4	107.6	−5	2
272	Pharmaceutical chemicals and preparations	107.0	115.7	136.4	145.9	148.4	151.8	151.9	141.2	148.6	153.5	150.7	159.7	6	13
273	Toilet preparations	105.4	112.9	126.1	139.2	133.8	141.6	131.3	132.1	130.1	135.2	132.3	129.4	−2	−2
274	Paint	103.0	110.1	120.9	115.4	113.8	112.0	116.5	113.6	113.1	118.1	117.3	125.0	7	10
275	Soap and detergents	99.1	102.5	105.8	115.4	110.2	106.2	112.6	107.5	114.4	109.9	117.7	106.9	−9	−1
276/1	Synthetic resins and plastics materials	101.2	110.8	126.6	119.4	101.4	98.2	95.6	99.5	112.2	122.4	122.7	123.6	1	24
276/2	Synthetic rubber	90.5	100.0	118.2	108.7	84.1	96.2	80.8	66.0	93.4	97.0	110.8	104.5	−6	58
277	Dyestuffs and pigments	97.0	106.7	112.2	118.7	98.1	105.5	93.1	94.6	99.2	107.6	111.0	108.9	−2	15
278	Fertilisers	105.5	99.6	99.1	101.2	100.1	99.0	94.5	101.7	105.1	97.1	111.4	98.4	−12	−3
279	Other chemical industries	102.1	108.6	114.3	118.6	111.1	109.6	108.3	108.5	110.4	112.9	111.6	118.4	6	9
Order V	Chemical and allied industries	102.1	108.1	120.9	127.9	116.2	119.3	113.2	112.5	119.9	124.2	126.6	127.7	1	14
	Total manufacturing industry	99.7	102.4	111.0	108.2	101.7	106.1	100.5	99.7	100.4	101.8	103.2	102.6	−1	3

TABLE 2 Sales of principal products

£ million, 1970 prices, not seasonally adjusted

MLH		1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1975 1st qtr	1975 2nd qtr	1975 3rd qtr	1975 4th qtr	1976 1st qtr	1976 2nd qtr
271	General chemicals	1,194	1,203	1,254	1,433	1,629	1,374	369	327	317	361	387	396
271/1	Inorganic chemicals	378	382	375	413	434	361	103	88	82	88	96	99
271/2	Organic chemicals	462	475	533	635	765	630	163	147	144	176	186	196
271/3	Other chemicals	354	346	346	385	430	383	103	92	91	97	105	101
272	Pharmaceutical chemicals and preparations	436	466	504	595	636	647	168	168	146	165	170	167
273	Toilet preparations	162	171	183	204	225	216	49	51	59	57	48	51
274	Paint	188	194	207	227	217	214	52	58	54	50	56	58
275	Soap and detergents	221	219	227	234	255	243	61	61	58	63	64	63
276	Synthetic resins and plastics materials and synthetic rubber	539	540	592	675	636	536	129	132	125	150	162	168
277	Dyestuffs and pigments	141	137	150	158	167	139	38	34	32	35	39	40
278	Fertilisers	162	171	161	161	164	162	41	40	43	38	41	46
279	Other chemical industries	405	413	436	464	478	458	125	120	102	111	123	122
Order V	Chemical and allied industries	3,448	3,514	3,714	4,151	4,407	3,989	1,032	991	936	1,030	1,090	1,111

TABLE 3 Imports of principal products of the chemical industry

£ million cif current prices, not seasonally adjusted

MLH		1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1975 1st qtr	1975 2nd qtr	1975 3rd qtr	1975 4th qtr	1976 1st qtr	1976 2nd qtr	1976 3rd qtr
271	General chemicals	302.9	298.1	337.9	459.5	864.8	810.8	214.7	187.8	191.4	216.9	230.8	263.2	292.2
271/1	Inorganic chemicals	70.5	68.3	74.6	96.7	155.6	163.8	42.7	42.8	40.4	37.9	51.3	61.5	60.2
271/2	Organic chemicals	160.7	147.3	160.6	236.9	506.3	396.4	116.3	92.3	84.4	103.4	121.9	136.4	157.2
271/3	Other chemicals	71.7	82.5	102.7	125.9	202.9	250.6	55.7	52.7	66.6	75.6	57.6	65.3	74.8
272	Pharmaceutical chemicals and preparations	38.4	42.2	49.1	74.3	106.5	111.4	26.1	25.0	28.9	31.4	38.5	37.9	40.1
273	Toilet preparations	5.1	6.2	9.0	15.1	21.2	25.3	5.9	6.5	6.6	6.3	6.0	6.8	9.4
274	Paint	5.3	5.9	7.3	10.0	14.9	14.0	3.2	3.1	3.4	4.3	4.5	5.4	5.2
275	Soap and detergents	5.8	9.4	12.6	14.2	25.1	19.4	5.5	4.4	4.3	5.2	5.6	6.4	5.4
276/1	Synthetic resins	107.5	112.6	134.6	191.6	336.9	243.3	53.7	56.6	61.6	71.5	91.6	107.2	114.1
276/2	Synthetic rubber	18.8	20.5	20.7	27.0	39.1	42.3	11.0	9.3	9.7	12.3	13.8	15.3	14.2
277	Dyestuffs and pigments	26.7	35.7	39.2	54.5	71.5	53.2	11.5	12.8	12.9	16.0	17.2	18.0	21.9
278	Fertilisers	23.1	25.9	32.9	35.2	57.4	55.3	17.5	13.7	12.1	12.0	17.9	15.9	13.6
279	Other chemical industries	36.5	42.3	48.6	65.5	103.2	114.5	28.9	29.9	26.7	29.0	43.7	42.0	46.5
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	570.1	598.8	691.9	946.9	1,640.6	1,489.5	378.0	349.1	357.8	404.7	469.4	517.9	562.6

£ million cif 1970 prices, not seasonally adjusted

MLH		1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1975 1st qtr	1975 2nd qtr	1975 3rd qtr	1975 4th qtr	1976 1st qtr	1976 2nd qtr	1976 3rd qtr
271	General chemicals	302	289	328	376	385	366	86	77	82	90	94	97	108
271/1	Inorganic chemicals	70	65	68	81	82	71	20	17	18	16	20	21	22
271/2	Organic chemicals	160	147	165	194	191	150	42	35	34	39	49	49	54
271/3	Other chemicals	72	77	94	101	112	115	25	26	31	34	26	26	32
272	Pharmaceutical chemicals and preparations	39	39	46	60	72	57	16	13	14	14	17	17	17
273	Toilet preparations	5	6	9	13	14	18	5	5	4	4	3	4	5
274	Paint	5	6	7	8	9	8	2	2	2	2	2	3	2
275	Soap and detergents	6	9	12	12	17	14	4	4	3	3	3	4	3
276/1	Synthetic resins	108	120	149	187	203	141	31	33	36	41	50	52	52
276/2	Synthetic rubber	19	23	25	24	22	26	7	6	6	7	7	7	6
277	Dyestuffs and pigments	27	33	35	43	44	29	6	7	7	8	9	8	10
278	Fertilisers	23	24	28	26	26	19	6	5	4	4	6	6	5
279	Other chemical industries	36	41	45	50	59	52	13	14	12	13	20	16	18
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	570	591	682	800	852	698	176	165	170	186	211	214	226

TABLE 4 Exports of principal products of the chemical industry

£ million, fob current prices, not seasonally adjusted

MLH		1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1975 1st qtr	1975 2nd qtr	1975 3rd qtr	1975 4th qtr	1976 1st qtr	1976 2nd qtr	1976 3rd qtr
271	General chemicals	324.2	366.0	373.8	523.6	984.7	917.9	221.7	223.7	217.7	254.8	305.5	365.7	364.4
271/1	Inorganic chemicals	61.5	62.7	58.0	81.5	128.1	128.9	38.2	31.8	27.2	31.7	36.5	45.9	45.5
271/2	Organic chemicals	135.7	154.4	160.5	244.1	545.3	451.7	108.6	105.0	105.8	132.3	158.4	182.2	179.7
271/3	Other chemicals	127.0	148.9	155.3	198.0	311.3	337.3	74.9	86.9	84.7	90.8	110.6	137.5	139.2
272	Pharmaceutical chemicals and preparations	134.1	161.1	172.9	212.6	287.1	350.4	80.8	95.8	84.0	89.8	97.7	100.2	104.3
273	Toilet preparations	22.4	23.9	28.2	34.4	46.8	57.4	12.9	14.9	14.8	14.8	16.1	20.4	22.4
274	Paint	19.8	21.6	23.6	29.3	46.4	55.3	13.5	14.8	12.9	14.1	14.9	17.7	18.7
275	Soap and detergents	23.5	23.8	28.8	38.0	70.5	81.0	18.2	21.6	19.4	21.8	21.7	27.3	27.5
276/1	Synthetic resins	137.1	147.4	160.3	200.5	330.9	312.6	76.3	75.7	68.9	91.7	103.9	120.7	117.0
276/2	Synthetic rubber	19.8	22.2	25.7	34.3	46.6	37.8	8.9	9.4	8.0	11.5	12.5	14.8	13.1
277	Dyestuffs and pigments	53.6	58.7	79.2	107.0	162.2	137.3	34.9	32.4	31.5	38.5	37.2	46.5	49.5
278	Fertilisers	4.8	3.6	7.0	14.8	45.7	53.4	27.2	15.0	4.7	6.5	18.7	9.7	8.7
279	Other chemical industries	109.8	126.8	129.2	158.3	221.9	272.3	67.5	72.5	67.1	65.2	84.6	88.4	82.5
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	849.4	955.1	1,028.7	1,352.8	2,242.8	2,275.1	561.7	575.7	529.0	608.7	712.9	811.3	808.1

£ million, fob 1970 prices, not seasonally adjusted

MLH		1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1975 1st qtr	1975 2nd qtr	1975 3rd qtr	1975 4th qtr	1976 1st qtr	1976 2nd qtr	1976 3rd qtr
271	General chemicals	324	354	353	461	564	421	103	103	102	113	135	145	138
271/1	Inorganic chemicals	61	61	53	62	63	51	15	12	11	13	14	17	15
271/2	Organic chemicals	136	152	156	226	292	205	48	46	51	59	73	71	66
271/3	Other chemicals	127	141	145	174	209	165	40	44	40	41	49	58	57
272	Pharmaceutical chemicals and preparations	134	156	164	196	231	232	58	64	55	55	61	61	61
273	Toilet preparations	22	22	25	28	28	27	7	7	7	7	8	9	10
274	Paint	20	21	20	23	25	26	6	7	6	6	6	7	7
275	Soap and detergents	24	22	26	32	42	39	9	10	9	10	10	13	12
276/1	Synthetic resins	137	150	167	180	188	161	38	38	36	49	53	59	54
276/2	Synthetic rubber	20	21	24	28	30	17	4	4	4	5	5	6	5
277	Dyestuffs and pigments	54	55	69	82	89	64	16	15	15	17	16	18	19
278	Fertilisers	5	4	7	13	24	26	14	7	2	2	6	3	4
279	Other chemical industries	110	130	138	149	163	151	41	41	36	34	42	42	37
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	849	935	994	1,192	1,384	1,164	296	297	272	299	342	363	347

Export prices have risen somewhat faster than home sales prices during the past year. It is possible therefore that exporters have been able to take advantage of the depreciation in sterling to boost their margins on export sales.

Capital expenditure

The average level of capital expenditure in the first three quarters of 1976 was only slightly below the average for 1975 and little change is now expected for 1976 as a whole compared with 1975. Despite the high level of interest rates, the industry is reportedly trying to maintain its existing capital programmes and chemical companies have responded well to the Accelerated Projects Scheme. The prospects are that there will be an increase in the volume of investment in 1977 compared with 1976.

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TABLE 5 Price index numbers of output (home sales)

1970 = 100

MLH		1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1975 1st qtr	1975 2nd qtr	1975 3rd qtr	1975 4th qtr	1976 1st qtr	1976 2nd qtr	1976 3rd qtr
271	General chemicals	107.0	109.8	114.4	158.4	201.1	182.3	200.3	207.9	213.8	224.2	240.2	251.8
271/1	Inorganic chemicals	108.0	112.3	116.8	140.7	197.1	170.1	194.4	207.5	216.2	223.7	234.8	242.4
271/2	Organic chemicals	106.3	108.1	112.9	185.7	222.7	210.3	220.8	227.8	231.7	247.4	262.4	278.3
272	Pharmaceutical chemicals	110.4	107.7	112.6	137.6	183.1	169.2	178.6	189.4	195.3	187.6	201.0	209.8
272	Pharmaceutical preparations	103.6	109.1	112.3	126.9	160.7	145.8	154.3	168.7	174.0	179.7	187.6	197.8
273	Toilet preparations	108.3	118.6	124.3	136.8	164.5	152.9	159.9	170.6	173.9	182.2	186.5	192.2
274	Paint	112.4	120.6	127.5	161.9	203.6	196.0	201.6	205.3	211.5	220.0	222.1	225.4
275	Soap and synthetic detergents	103.0	112.3	123.8	162.8	185.1	181.0	182.4	187.9	188.9	200.6	206.2	212.7
276/1	Synthetic resins and plastics materials	102.6	103.8	105.6	156.4	181.8	177.0	180.0	181.9	188.3	194.6	205.6	217.5
277	Dyestuffs and pigments	111.6	115.7	122.6	141.5	174.0	159.9	168.1	181.8	187.3	201.0	205.2	221.0
279	Other chemical industries	108.5	115.1	120.6	145.9	187.1	172.5	180.6	192.9	202.5	208.4	212.1	217.6
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries*	108.2	113.7	118.9	152.8	188.7	177.4	186.2	192.8	198.2	206.5	213.7	221.0
	Total manufacturing industry	109.0	114.8	123.2	152.1	188.7	176.0	186.3	193.4	199.1	206.9	214.4	223.2

* This index refers only to sales outside the chemical industry, including sectors not shown above.

TABLE 6 Price index numbers of materials and fuel purchased

1970 = 100

MLH		1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1975 1st qtr	1975 2nd qtr	1975 3rd qtr	1975 4th qtr	1976 1st qtr	1976 2nd qtr	1976 3rd qtr
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	108.8	112.2	135.9	215.4	239.1	230.9	233.5	241.0	250.8	258.7	276.5	289.4
	Total manufacturing industry	104.6	109.2	144.5	215.1	235.5	220.9	225.6	239.3	256.1	266.5	292.6	306.8

TABLE 7 Employees in employment: Great Britain

Thousands, monthly averages

MLH		Mid-year count 1970	Mid-year count 1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1975 1st qtr	1975 2nd qtr	1975 3rd qtr	1975 4th qtr	1976 1st qtr	1976 2nd qtr	1976 3rd qtr
271	General chemicals	141	143	139	135	134	133	135	132	133	133	132	133	134
272	Pharmaceutical chemicals and preparations	71	73	74	74	78	77	79	78	77	76	74	74	74
273	Toilet preparations	22	23	25	27	27	25	27	25	24	23	22	23	23
274	Paint	31	29	27	27	28	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
275	Soap and synthetic detergents	18	15	15	15	16	17	17	17	18	17	17	17	17
276	Synthetic resins and plastics materials and synthetic rubber	51	48	46	47	50	50	51	50	50	49	49	50	51
277	Dyestuffs and pigments	21	20	19	22	24	23	24	23	23	22	22	22	22
278	Fertilisers	11	11	11	11	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
279	Other chemical industries	75	73	69	69	68	67	67	67	67	66	66	67	68
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	440	435	426	427	436	431	438	430	430	425	421	423	427
	Total manufacturing industry	8,164	7,886	7,655	7,700	7,719	7,376	7,557	7,390	7,307	7,251	7,150	7,124	7,193

Source: *Department of Employment Gazette*; industrial analysis of employees in employment.

TABLE 8 Capital expenditure

£ million

		Current prices not seasonally adjusted	1970 prices, seasonally adjusted
1963		127.8	172.7
1964		162.2	214.8
1965		217.4	274.0
1966		254.3	304.8
1967		214.7	256.1
1968		223.1	256.0
1969		267.6	296.4
1970		382.3	382.3
1971		367.1	333.9
1972		281.1	240.0
1973		249.5	192.4
1974		352.7	223.1
1975		547.0	270.5
1975	1st quarter	120.4	68.2
	2nd quarter	135.8	70.0
	3rd quarter	138.3	69.3
	4th quarter	152.5	63.0
1976	1st quarter	131.4	59.9
	2nd quarter	152.5	66.5
	3rd quarter	163.5	72.2

Finance for technology

The National Research Development Corporation provides financial and other support for technological developments of potential commercial importance. NRDC promotes the adoption by industry of new products and processes invented in government laboratories, universities and elsewhere. NRDC is participating in joint ventures with industry on an increasing scale. By supporting projects NRDC makes it possible for individual firms or groups of companies to undertake and accelerate the development and production of new products and processes of national importance. The corporation welcomes submissions in confidence from firms who have promising new projects to launch in any branch of industry or commerce. The conditions for its considering proposals of this kind are set out in a leaflet which may be obtained on application, either by writing to the National Research Development Corporation, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SL; or by telephoning 01-828 3400.

National Food Survey: Household food consumption in the third quarter of 1976

The main results of the National Food Survey for the third quarter of 1976 are summarised in the accompanying tables. The estimates are derived from records provided by a sample of 1,789 households.

Average expenditure on food bought for consumption in the home (excluding sweets and soft drinks) rose by 17p (3.8 per cent) compared with the previous quarter, to £4.50 per person per week. This increase, however, was entirely due to freezer-owning households increasing their expenditure on average by 62p per person, while the average for households without a freezer fell by 3½p, probably because of the hot weather. More than two-thirds of the increase by freezer-owners was due to increased purchases of meat and meat products, much of it obviously for storage. These households, which constituted 26 per cent of the sample, also obtained garden, allotment and other 'free' supplies of food to an average of 31p per person per week compared with 16p worth by other households and 21p worth averaged over the sample as a whole; in the previous quarter these averages were respectively 13p, 8p and 10p.

Compared with the third quarter of 1975, average expenditure rose by 62p (16.0 per cent), most of this being due to the rise over the year (14.4 per cent) in the average level of food prices paid by housewives participating in the survey. The implied overall gain of about 1½ per cent in the real value of food purchases over the year was apparently due to the increased level of stocking up of some foods, particularly meat and meat products, by freezer-owning households; all other households on average showed a fall – probably due to the hot weather – in their real value of food purchases per head of 1.8 per cent which was not offset by greater 'free' supplies.

Averaged over the whole of the third quarter of 1976, household consumption of liquid milk recovered to 4.72 pints per person per week, the same level as a year earlier, but there were indications that purchases fell away slightly after the price increase of 1p per pint on 5 September. Average consumption of cheese at 3.79 oz was little different from what it had been a year earlier but was about 5 per cent below the record high level of the previous quarter.

Following the reduction in the subsidy in June, the average price paid by housewives for butter rose further and was 50 per cent higher in the third quarter than it had been a year earlier (equivalent to a rise of 32 per cent in real terms) while average consumption was 10 per cent lower at 4.96 oz; this decrease was more than offset by an increase from 2.40 oz to 3.12 oz in consumption of margarine, for which the average price had declined over the year in real terms by almost 10 per cent. Much the greater part of the shift in purchases was to soft varieties of margarine. Purchases of lard and compound cooking fat recovered to 1.89 oz from the low average recorded in the previous quarter and were slightly greater than in the third quarter of 1975.

Demand for eggs weakened a little further in the third quarter of 1976 when consumption fell from 4.19 to 4.03 eggs per person per week and the average price declined slightly in real terms. In the corresponding period of 1975 consumption averaged 4.13 eggs.

Purchases of sugar rose seasonally to 13.08 oz per person per week, and although this is the highest average recorded since the shortage of 1974, consumption continues to be below the levels recorded prior to that shortage. Consumption of preserves has fluctuated within a very narrow range over the past year, but the data suggest the re-emergence of a very slight downward trend.

Household purchases of red carcase meat averaged 15.48 oz per person per week, much the same level as a year previously, slight decreases for beef and for lamb being fully offset by increased purchases of pork. On the whole, the freezer-owning households appear to have been building up their freezer stocks during the quarter since, in comparison with households without freezers, they bought on average nearly twice as much beef per head and more than twice as much pork, but little more lamb. The average price paid for pork, was, in real terms, about 4 per cent lower than in the third quarter of 1975 but that for beef about 2 per cent higer and that for lamb 4 per cent higher. Purchases of bacon were nearly 10 per cent greater than in the corresponding period of 1975 at 4.30 oz per person per week, while those of cooked ham were at their usual seasonally high level of approximately 1.13 oz. Increases were also recorded for

TABLE 1 Estimates of average household food consumption

oz per person per week (a)

	Year 1974	Year 1975	3rd quarter 1975	2nd quarter 1976	3rd quarter 1976
Liquid milk (pints)	4.74	4.76	4.70	4.64	4.72
Other milk (eq. pints)	0.35	0.33	0.39	0.38	0.37
Cheese	3.74	3.79	3.86	3.98	3.79
Butter	5.61	5.63	5.53	5.03	4.96
Margarine	2.60	2.60	2.40	3.00	3.12
Lard and compound cooking fat	1.82	1.97	1.81	1.63	1.89
Eggs: purchases (number)	3.94	3.97	3.93	4.01	3.86
consumption (number)	4.09	4.14	4.13	4.19	4.03
Preserves	2.49	2.43	2.35	2.33	2.29
Sugar	13.03	11.29	12.23	11.53	13.08
Beef and veal	7.41	8.32	8.22	7.30	8.03
Mutton and lamb	4.11	4.25	4.43	3.84	4.37
Pork	3.20	2.73	2.71	2.10	3.08
Bacon and ham, uncooked	4.18	3.99	3.95	4.10	4.30
Bacon and ham, cooked (including canned)	0.93	1.00	1.13	1.03	1.13
Poultry and cooked chicken	5.18	5.73	5.68	6.63	6.01
Other cooked meat (not canned)	0.62	0.59	0.66	0.56	0.55
Other canned meat	2.09	2.21	2.37	2.23	2.52
Offals	1.05	1.15	0.92	1.10	0.94
Sausages, uncooked	3.50	3.22	3.07	3.06	3.40
Other meat products:					
meat pies and sausages rolls (ready-to-eat)	0.64	0.75	0.69	0.77	0.81
all others (not frozen)	2.24	2.21	2.19	2.05	2.09
Fish, fresh and processed	2.76	2.76	2.67	2.59	2.76
Canned fish	0.60	0.66	0.79	0.74	0.79
Fish and fish products, frozen	0.96	1.05	1.04	1.27	1.25
Fresh green vegetables	12.70	11.58	13.12	12.83	12.08
Tomatoes, fresh	3.74	3.87	6.08	4.03	6.66
Other fresh vegetables	10.20	9.92	9.35	9.11	10.02
Frozen vegetables	2.66	3.26	3.67	3.48	3.48
Canned tomatoes	0.94	0.98	0.81	1.24	0.99
Canned peas	2.76	2.76	2.64	2.77	2.96
Canned beans	3.58	3.83	3.63	3.78	3.90
Potatoes (excluding processed)					
purchases	41.58	41.08	31.84	26.81	29.69
consumption	45.66	43.90	36.04	28.09	36.39
Citrus fruit	4.58	4.92	3.45	6.05	3.12
Bananas	2.86	2.87	3.13	3.24	3.12
Apples	7.08	6.77	6.44	7.27	7.08
All other fresh fruit	3.27	2.95	5.83	3.16	6.55
Canned fruit	3.70	3.75	4.14	3.74	3.97
Dried fruit, nuts and fruit and nut products	1.20	1.27	1.05	1.08	1.20
Flour	5.30	5.16	5.12	5.60	5.88
White bread	28.24	27.68	27.94	26.99	26.74
Brown, wholewheat and wholemeal bread	2.64	3.30	3.42	3.67	3.75
Other bread	2.62	2.69	2.82	2.96	3.31
Buns, scones and teacakes	0.94	1.12	0.90	1.07	0.92
Cakes and pastries	3.51	3.12	2.98	2.80	3.00
Chocolate biscuits	1.12	0.95	0.91	1.00	0.89
Other biscuits	4.51	4.64	4.70	4.66	4.77
Breakfast cereals	2.88	3.05	3.31	3.28	3.53
Oatmeal and oat products	0.53	0.50	0.37	0.29	0.38
Canned milk puddings	1.57	1.56	1.43	1.38	1.71
Tea	2.24	2.18	2.12	2.21	2.31
Instant coffee	0.51	0.50	0.48	0.46	0.47
Canned soups	3.46	2.98	2.35	2.23	2.47
Pickles and sauces	1.55	1.71	1.58	1.69	1.59

(a) Except where otherwise stated.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

broiler chickens, cooked poultry, canned meats, sausages, ready-to-eat meat pies and frozen convenience meat products, but, perhaps because of the hot weather, there were slight decreases in purchases of cooked meats and some delicatessen-type meat products. Overall consumption of fish averaged 4.80 oz per person per week compared with 4.50 oz a year previously, the increase being mainly in purchases of frozen fish and frozen fish products, particularly by freezer-owning households. Purchases of canned fish at 0.79 oz were at their usual seasonal peak.

The new season's crop of potatoes was adversely affected by the drought, and household consumption in the third quarter was, for the second year in succession, as little as 2¼ lb per person per week, compared with the more normal July-September level of 2¾ lb. Consumption of 'instant' potato continued to be well above the levels of previous years but purchases of frozen chips and other frozen potato products fell from 1.04 oz to 0.44 oz, the lowest third quarter average since 1972; smaller decreases were recorded for all other potato products. Supplies of leafy salads, peas and cauliflowers were adversely affected by the drought, but compared with the corresponding period of 1975, consumption of tomatoes increased and that of most other fresh vegetables was at least fully maintained. Purchases of canned vegetables (other than potatoes) averaged 9.41 oz per person per week compared with 8.23 oz a year earlier and those of frozen vegetables (other than potato products) 3.04 oz compared with 2.63 oz.

Consumption of fresh fruit averaged 19.9 oz per person per week, 1 oz more than in the corresponding period of 1975; increases for stone fruit, apples and pears outweighed decreases for soft fruit and citrus fruit and also compensated for small decreases in purchases of canned fruit and fruit juices.

Household purchases of bread rose seasonally in the third quarter to 33.8 oz per person per week, but the average was again slightly less than in the corresponding period of the previous year. Although the subsidy on bread was reduced on 9 August, the average price paid by housewives over the third quarter was still lower in real terms than during the four years prior to the fourth quarter of 1975. Over the past few years there has been a slight shift away from white bread to brown, wholewheat and wholemeal breads. Purchases of cakes, biscuits and most other cereal products were much the same as in the corresponding period of the previous year, but there was some further gain in consumption of breakfast cereals and some displacement of rice by canned milk puddings.

TABLE 2 Estimates of average household food expenditure

per person per week

	Year 1974	Year 1975	3rd quarter 1975	2nd quarter 1976	3rd quarter 1976
Total household food expenditure	£3.10	£3.77	£3.88	£4.33	£4.50
	p	p	p	p	p
Liquid milk	22.88	30.47	31.02	38.74	40.54
Other milk	3.06	3.59	4.33	4.83	4.95
Cheese	9.77	10.38	10.59	12.37	12.11
Butter	7.78	9.95	9.83	11.58	13.17
Margarine	3.13	3.90	3.54	4.50	4.74
Lard and compound cooking fat	1.94	2.47	2.17	1.90	2.25
Eggs	12.31	12.54	11.81	14.28	13.79
Preserves	2.54	3.56	3.56	3.57	3.53
Sugar	5.23	9.38	10.39	8.27	9.42
Beef and veal	26.62	32.51	32.34	33.16	36.70
Mutton and lamb	11.68	13.12	14.27	13.86	16.73
Pork	9.01	9.61	9.27	8.90	11.62
Bacon and ham, uncooked	13.82	15.58	15.54	18.49	19.17
Bacon and ham, cooked (including canned)	4.58	5.44	6.26	6.48	7.26
Poultry and cooked chicken	9.16	12.24	12.49	15.16	15.32
Other cooked meat (not canned)	2.44	2.64	3.05	2.82	2.84
Other canned meat	5.38	6.18	6.67	6.96	8.38
Offals	2.73	3.22	2.65	3.18	2.89
Sausages, uncooked	6.56	6.92	6.74	7.45	8.52
Other meat products: meat pies and sausage rolls (ready-to-eat)	1.29	1.81	1.76	2.11	2.37
All others (not frozen)	5.28	6.01	6.27	6.53	6.93
Fish, fresh and processed	8.38	9.58	9.21	9.78	11.02
Canned fish	2.26	2.82	3.31	3.10	3.45
Fish and fish products, frozen	2.88	3.31	3.28	4.70	4.73
Fresh green vegetables	5.58	6.32	6.65	7.57	6.64
Tomatoes, fresh	4.23	5.31	5.63	8.41	5.83
Other fresh vegetables	5.54	6.55	6.18	8.42	7.20
Frozen vegetables	2.91	4.25	4.76	5.59	5.49
Canned tomatoes	0.87	0.97	0.80	1.13	0.89
Canned peas	1.59	2.03	1.95	2.20	2.40
Canned beans	2.56	3.14	2.99	3.26	3.47
Potatoes (excluding processed)	7.92	13.64	16.15	23.25	17.33
Citrus fruit	3.03	3.72	2.94	4.76	2.90
Bananas	2.18	2.62	2.99	3.17	3.19
Apples	4.32	5.38	5.35	6.30	5.23
All other fresh fruit	2.54	2.72	5.48	2.64	6.31
Canned fruit	3.66	4.41	4.88	4.68	5.32
Dried fruit, nuts and fruit and nut products	2.23	2.53	2.04	2.35	2.53
Flour	2.13	2.11	2.15	2.15	2.42
White bread	14.69	16.42	17.11	17.43	17.86
Brown, wholewheat and wholemeal bread	1.78	2.47	2.66	3.07	3.26
Other bread	3.14	3.66	3.75	4.10	4.53
Buns, scones and teacakes	1.36	1.85	1.55	2.16	1.77
Cakes and pastries	6.95	7.74	7.41	7.65	8.27
Chocolate biscuits	2.79	3.08	3.06	3.51	3.18
Other biscuits	5.98	8.04	8.08	8.45	8.91
Breakfast cereals	3.70	4.95	5.56	5.57	6.14
Oatmeal and oat products	0.45	0.50	0.40	0.34	0.38
Canned milk puddings	0.85	1.12	1.06	1.08	1.41
Tea	5.49	6.00	5.90	6.45	6.97
Instant coffee	3.83	4.19	4.04	5.15	5.70
Canned soups	2.26	2.62	2.16	2.13	2.42
Pickles and sauces	1.77	2.51	2.50	2.71	2.66
Other foods	23.52	29.26	31.34	34.72	36.78

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

TABLE 3 Nutritional value of household food as a percentage of recommended intakes (a) (b)

	National averages					Households with four or more children			
	Year 1974	Year 1975	3rd quarter 1975	2nd quarter 1976	3rd quarter 1976	Year 1974	Year 1975	Averages of the July-September quarters in the three most recent years	Averages for year ended Sept. 1976
Energy	101	96	97	93	97	95	88	93	90
Protein	123	120	121	119	123	112	106	111	108
Calcium	192	186	187	185	186	163	155	158	156
Iron	108	105	104	101	104	95	91	93	91
Thiamin	125	122	122	120	126	125	121	124	122
Riboflavin	129	126	126	125	127	127	124	124	126
Nicotinic acid equivalent	189	185	185	180	188	185	177	182	178
Vitamin C	181	177	216	172	200	159	154	186	147
Vitamin A (retinol equivalent)	183	198	184	213	197	172	183	171	205
Vitamin D(c)	83	82	84	85	87	70	65	75	70

(a) Department of Health and Social Security. *Recommended Intakes of Nutrients for the United Kingdom.* Reports on Public Health and Medical Subjects, No. 120, HMSO, 1969
(b) All values make allowance for wastage in the home of ten per cent of the edible portion of food bought, and for expected losses of nutrients during cooking.
(c) The Survey does not evaluate welfare and pharmaceutical sources of this (or any other) vitamin. Furthermore, most adults need no dietary Vitamin D, since they obtain all they need from the action of sunlight on the skin.

Purchases of tea rose to 2.31 oz, perhaps in anticipation of the abolition of the subsidy; in real terms the average price has fallen by nearly 25 per cent over the past four years. Purchases of instant coffee barely changed at 0.47 oz, the effect of the further sharp increase in its real price perhaps being discounted in view of even further prospective rises.

Despite the hot weather, the food bought between July and September had a higher calorific value than in the second or indeed the first quarter of the year. The overall nutritional value of this food was also greater than in the previous quarter. Most of the increase, however, appears to have been due to a building up of household freezer stocks of certain foods, and therefore may represent future rather than current consumption. The consumption of vitamin C, which is always seasonally at its maximum during the summer, was not as high as normal owing to the effect of the drought on the level and pattern of supplies of fruit and vegetables. Intakes of vitamin D were at their highest for three years because of the reversion from butter to margarine.

Nutrient intakes of families with four or more children also showed some improvement over the values recently recorded.

Note

The National Food Survey, conducted on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, is a continuous sampling inquiry into the domestic food consumption, expenditure and nutrition of private households in Great Britain. By obtaining information simultaneously about the quantities, cost and varieties of food purchased by a random sample of housewives, the survey enables comparisons to be made of dietary and food expenditure patterns and of average prices actually paid for food, not only in Great Britain as a whole but also by different kinds of household. Detailed reports are published annually. The latest volume, published on 2 July 1976, gave information on household food consumption and expenditure in 1974.

Steel consumption and stocks in the third quarter of 1976

Steel consumption and stocks in the third quarter of 1976—Seasonally adjusted estimates of aggregate consumption, deliveries and stocks of finished steel by type in the third quarter of 1976 are given in table 1, with a detailed analysis of stocks in table 5. Estimates of consumption and stocks, by industry, are given in tables 2, 3 and 4.

Consumption by industry: table 2

The aggregate consumption of steel during the third quarter of 1976 at 3.78 million tonnes was 2.6 per cent lower when compared with the previous quarter but nearly 2 per cent higher than the third quarter 1975. The 2.6 per cent fall is reflected over most industries except motors and other consuming industries where a modest increase occurred. Consumption by hollow-ware and wire and wire manufactures did not change. In the motor industry where consumption declined by over 40 per cent between the third quarters of 1973 and 1975 there has been a gradual increase over the four latest quarters. The third quarter 1976 indicates an increase of over 30 per cent compared with the same period in 1975.

Stocks by industry: table 3

Consumer stock levels indicate a slight increase during the third quarter 1976, following the continued fall which began during the third quarter of 1974. Increases were estimated within the mechanical engineering, motor, hollow-ware and other consuming industries. Aggregate consumers stocks are now comparable with those held at end 1973. Steel stockholders' stocks are estimated to have risen by nearly 12 per cent during the third quarter 1976 and are now almost 4 per cent higher than the peak first quarter 1975.

Ratio of stocks to weekly consumption by industry: table 4

Only minor changes occurred to the ratios during the third quarter 1976. Industries with the largest ratio were, shipbuilding, coalmining and construction at 43, 22 and 21 weeks, respectively. Hollow-ware, electrical engineering and wire and wire manufactures held the lowest ratios at eight, eight and nine weeks, respectively.

Stocks by product: table 5

Total stocks by product compared with stocks held at end third quarter 1975 indicated that sheet increased by 15 per cent, tinplate by 20 per cent, rods and bars for reinforcement by 4½ per cent while plate fell by 12½ per cent, other steel products by nearly 4 per cent, and total all products by slightly over 2½ per cent.

Inquiries: 01-212 5544.

TABLE 1 Consumption, deliveries and stocks of finished steel

Seasonally adjusted

	Consumption m. tonnes	Deliveries m. tonnes			Stocks at end of period m. tonnes			Ratio of stocks to weekly consumption (b)		
		From UK production to consumers and stockholders	Imports	Total to consumers (a)	Consumers	Stockholders	Total	Consumers	Stockholders	Total
1969	17.78	17.14	1.18	18.28	3.77	0.63	4.40	10.8	1.9	12.7
1970	17.64	17.10	1.04	17.91	4.15	0.87	5.02	11.9	2.5	14.4
1971	16.72	14.50	1.41	16.07	3.47	0.71	4.18	11.5	2.3	13.8
1972	16.75	14.59	2.14	16.72	3.44	0.72	4.16	9.6	2.0	11.6
1973	18.45	16.80	2.51	19.45	4.44	0.58	5.02	13.2	1.8	15.0
1974	17.58	15.07	3.29	18.07	4.96	0.87	5.83	15.1	2.6	17.7
1975	15.45	12.03	3.03	15.01	4.53	0.92	5.45	14.5	2.9	17.4
1972 3rd quarter	4.28	3.78	0.53	4.32	3.32	0.73	4.05	9.6	2.1	11.7
4th quarter	4.50	3.96	0.66	4.62	3.44	0.72	4.16	9.6	2.0	11.6
1973 1st quarter	4.67	4.15	0.65	4.80	3.57	0.73	4.30	10.6	2.2	12.8
2nd quarter	4.37	4.13	0.44	4.61	3.82	0.68	4.50	10.8	1.9	12.7
3rd quarter	4.60	4.26	0.61	4.91	4.12	0.64	4.76	11.1	1.8	12.9
4th quarter	4.81	4.26	0.81	5.13	4.44	0.58	5.02	13.2	1.8	15.0
1974 1st quarter	4.36	3.98	0.97	4.92	5.00	0.62	5.62	14.2	1.8	16.0
2nd quarter	4.59	3.93	0.82	4.62	5.06	0.75	5.81	15.5	2.3	17.8
3rd quarter	4.25	3.56	0.70	4.19	5.00	0.81	5.81	14.8	2.4	17.2
4th quarter	4.38	3.60	0.80	4.34	4.96	0.87	5.83	15.1	2.6	17.7
1975 1st quarter	4.27	3.55	0.85	4.26	4.95	1.01	5.96	17.4	3.6	21.0
2nd quarter	3.70	2.88	0.66	3.56	4.82	0.99	5.81	16.8	3.5	20.3
3rd quarter	3.71	2.76	0.74	3.56	4.67	0.93	5.60	16.1	3.2	19.3
4th quarter	3.77	2.84	0.78	3.63	4.53	0.92	5.45	14.5	2.9	17.4
1976 1st quarter	4.07	3.05	0.84	3.91	4.37	0.90	5.27	14.6	3.0	17.6
2nd quarter	3.88	3.18	0.72	3.86	4.35	0.94	5.29	14.9	3.2	18.1
3rd quarter	3.78	3.24	0.70	3.83	4.40	1.05	5.45	15.1	3.6	18.7

(a) Total deliveries to consumers are deliveries from UK production to consumers and steel stockholders plus imports minus stock build by steel stockholders.
(b) Calculated as stocks divided by weekly consumption in the following quarter, with the exception of the latest quarter when the divisor is weekly consumption in that quarter.

TABLE 2 Consumption of finished steel by industry group

Seasonally adjusted — million tonnes

	Coalmining	Railways	Shipbuilding	Construction	Engineering: Electrical	Engineering: Mechanical	Motors	Hollow-ware	Wire and wire manufactures	Other consuming industries
1969	0.45	0.39	0.68	2.81	0.78	3.89	2.38	1.12	1.23	4.05
1970	0.44	0.40	0.68	2.86	0.77	3.83	2.32	1.12	1.25	3.97
1971	0.52	0.37	0.69	3.13	0.74	3.06	2.30	1.23	1.12	3.56
1972	0.47	0.37	0.72	2.99	0.76	3.18	2.21	1.23	1.14	3.68
1973	0.52	0.37	0.65	3.35	0.87	3.73	2.43	1.35	1.23	3.95
1974	0.50	0.48	0.58	3.08	1.07	3.54	2.13	1.33	1.12	3.75
1975	0.52	0.54	0.66	2.53	0.84	3.29	1.65	1.09	0.96	3.37
1972 3rd quarter	0.12	0.11	0.18	0.76	0.20	0.80	0.55	0.30	0.30	0.96
4th quarter	0.14	0.09	0.19	0.79	0.19	0.86	0.61	0.34	0.29	1.00
1973 1st quarter	0.13	0.09	0.20	0.83	0.21	0.93	0.60	0.32	0.34	1.02
2nd quarter	0.13	0.09	0.14	0.74	0.21	0.89	0.58	0.34	0.30	0.95
3rd quarter	0.13	0.09	0.15	0.86	0.23	0.95	0.63	0.33	0.29	0.94
4th quarter	0.13	0.10	0.16	0.92	0.22	0.96	0.62	0.36	0.30	1.04
1974 1st quarter	0.09	0.11	0.15	0.89	0.25	0.86	0.50	0.33	0.28	0.90
2nd quarter	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.81	0.28	0.93	0.56	0.37	0.27	1 00
3rd quarter	0.15	0.12	0.15	0 66	0.28	0.86	0.56	0.30	0.29	0.88
4th quarter	0.14	0.13	0.15	0.72	0.26	0.89	0.51	0.33	0.28	0.97
1975 1st quarter	0.14	0.15	0.18	0.71	0.22	0.92	0.48	0.30	0.27	0.90
2nd quarter	0.12	0.12	0.18	0.65	0.18	0.79	0.37	0.24	0.22	0.82
3rd quarter	0.12	0.14	0.14	0.59	0.22	0.80	0.36	0.28	0.24	0.83
4th quarter	0.14	0.13	0.16	0.58	0.22	0.78	0.44	0.27	0.23	0.82
1976 1st quarter	0.12	0.12	0.18	0.74	0.22	0.81	0.44	0.30	0.25	0.89
2nd quarter	0.14	0.13	0.14	0.64	0.22	0.80	0.46	0.30	0.24	0.81
3rd quarter	0.12	0.10	0.12	0.61	0.21	0.78	0.48	0.30	0.24	0.82

TABLE 3 Stocks of finished steel by industry group

Seasonally adjusted — million tonnes

	Coalmining	Railways	Shipbuilding	Construction	Engineering: Electrical	Engineering: Mechanical	Motors	Hollow-ware	Wire and wire manufactures	Other consuming industries
1969	0.11	0.10	0.28	0.88	0.12	0.86	0.43	0.18	0.10	0.71
1970	0.11	0.12	0.29	1.06	0.14	0.93	0.46	0.16	0.14	0.74
1971	0.13	0.11	0.25	0.84	0.10	0.78	0.37	0.14	0.13	0.62
1972	0.09	0.08	0.27	0.83	0.10	0.80	0.38	0.14	0.12	0.63
1973	0.14	0.09	0.34	1.11	0.15	0.92	0.50	0.19	0.14	0.86
1974	0.19	0.14	0.45	1.22	0.17	1.05	0.46	0.20	0.15	0.93
1975	0.22	0.16	0.51	1.14	0.13	0.90	0.39	0.14	0.15	0.79
1972 3rd quarter	0.09	0.08	0.25	0.80	0.10	0.78	0.34	0.14	0.12	0.62
4th quarter	0.09	0.08	0.27	0.83	0.10	0.80	0.38	0.14	0.12	0.63
1973 1st quarter	0.11	0.09	0.26	0.87	0.11	0.82	0.40	0.15	0.11	0.65
2nd quarter	0.11	0.09	0.27	0.95	0.12	0.84	0.44	0.16	0.13	0.71
3rd quarter	0.12	0.09	0.31	1.05	0.14	0.85	0.46	0.19	0.13	0.78
4th quarter	0.14	0.09	0.34	1.11	0.15	0.92	0.50	0.19	0.14	0.86
1974 1st quarter	0.18	0.12	0.37	1.18	0.21	1.04	0.55	0.22	0.16	0.97
2nd quarter	0.20	0.13	0.42	1.23	0.20	1.07	0.49	0.19	0.17	0.96
3rd quarter	0.20	0.13	0.45	1.22	0.19	1.05	0.47	0.19	0.16	0.94
4th quarter	0.19	0.14	0.45	1.22	0.17	1.05	0.46	0.20	0.15	0.93
1975 1st quarter	0.20	0.13	0.48	1.22	0.16	1.04	0.43	0.20	0.15	0.94
2nd quarter	0.21	0.15	0.51	1.21	0.15	1.00	0.41	0.18	0.13	0.87
3rd quarter	0.22	0.16	0.52	1.20	0.13	0.93	0.41	0.14	0.14	0.82
4th quarter	0.22	0.16	0.51	1.14	0.13	0.90	0.39	0.14	0.15	0.79
1976 1st quarter	0.22	0.17	0.46	1.05	0.13	0.89	0.39	0.14	0.15	0.77
2nd quarter	0.21	0.15	0.42	1.06	0.12	0.86	0.41	0.16	0.16	0.80
3rd quarter	0.20	0.14	0.40	1.01	0.12	0.91	0.46	0.17	0.16	0.83

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TABLE 4 Ratio of stocks to weekly consumption by industry group

Seasonally adjusted

	Coalmining	Railways	Shipbuilding	Construction	Engineering		Motors	Hollow-ware	Wire and wire manufactures	Other consuming industries
					Electrical	Mechanical				
1969	12	13	21	16	8	11	9	9	4	9
1970	10	16	22	16	9	14	10	6	6	10
1971	23	17	21	15	8	13	9	6	6	9
1972	9	11	18	13	6	11	8	6	5	8
1973	22	11	29	16	8	14	13	8	7	13
1974	17	14	38	22	9	15	12	8	7	12
1975	23	17	37	20	8	14	12	6	8	12
1972 3rd quarter	9	12	17	13	6	12	7	5	6	8
4th quarter	9	11	18	13	6	11	8	6	5	8
1973 1st quarter	11	14	24	15	7	12	9	6	5	9
2nd quarter	11	14	23	14	7	12	9	7	6	10
3rd quarter	12	11	26	15	8	12	10	7	6	10
4th quarter	22	11	29	16	8	14	13	8	7	13
1974 1st quarter	20	12	36	19	10	15	12	8	8	13
2nd quarter	17	14	37	24	9	16	11	8	8	14
3rd quarter	18	13	38	22	10	15	12	8	7	13
4th quarter	17	12	34	22	10	15	12	9	7	14
1975 1st quarter	21	14	35	25	11	17	15	11	9	15
2nd quarter	22	14	48	26	9	16	15	8	7	14
3rd quarter	21	16	42	27	8	16	12	7	8	13
4th quarter	23	17	37	20	8	14	12	6	8	12
1976 1st quarter	21	17	41	21	7	14	11	6	8	12
2nd quarter	23	20	45	22	8	14	11	7	9	13
3rd quarter	22	18	43	21	8	15	12	8	9	13

See note Table 1 (b).

TABLE 5 Stocks of finished steel held by consumers and stockholders

Seasonally adjusted

million tonnes

	Sheets	Plates	Tinplate	Rods and bars for reinforcement	Other steel products	Total all products
CONSUMERS						
1972	0.42	0.70	0.14	0.15	2.03	3.44
1973	0.60	0.91	0.16	0.22	2.55	4.44
1974	0.61	1.07	0.17	0.23	2.88	4.96
1975	0.41	1.05	0.12	0.23	2.72	4.53
1974 3rd quarter	0.62	1.07	0.17	0.21	2.93	5.00
4th quarter	0.61	1.07	0.17	0.23	2.88	4.96
1975 1st quarter	0.55	1.09	0.19	0.23	2.89	4.95
2nd quarter	0.49	1.10	0.15	0.25	2.83	4.82
3rd quarter	0.43	1.12	0.14	0.22	2.76	4.67
4th quarter	0.41	1.05	0.12	0.23	2.72	4.53
1976 1st quarter	0.41	0.96	0.15	0.23	2.62	4.37
2nd quarter	0.46	0.93	0.16	0.21	2.59	4.35
3rd quarter	0.50	0.89	0.16	0.23	2.62	4.40
STOCKHOLDERS						
1972	0.20	0.12	0.02	0.01	0.37	0.72
1973	0.15	0.11	0.02	0.01	0.29	0.58
1974	0.27	0.18	0.01	0.01	0.40	0.87
1975	0.23	0.24	0.01	0	0.44	0.92
1974 3rd quarter	0 27	0.16	0.01	0.01	0.36	0.81
4th quarter	0.27	0.18	0.01	0.01	0.40	0.87
1975 1st quarter	0.30	0.23	0.01	0	0.47	1.01
2nd quarter	0.27	0.25	0.01	0	0.46	0.99
3rd quarter	0.24	0.24	0.01	0	0.44	0.93
4th quarter	0.23	0.24	0.01	0	0.44	0.92
1976 1st quarter	0.23	0.25	0.01	0	0.41	0.90
2nd quarter	0.23	0.27	0.01	0	0.43	0.94
3rd quarter	0.27	0.30	0.02	0	0.46	1.05
TOTAL						
1972	0.62	0.82	0.16	0.16	2.40	4.16
1973	0.75	1.02	0.18	0.23	2.84	5.02
1974	0.88	1.25	0.18	0.24	3.28	5.83
1975	0.64	1.29	0.13	0.23	3.16	5.45
1974 3rd quarter	0.89	1.23	0.18	0.22	3.29	5.81
4th quarter	0.88	1.25	0.18	0.24	3.28	5.83
1975 1st quarter	0.85	1.32	0.20	0.23	3.36	5.96
2nd quarter	0.76	1.35	0.16	0.25	3.29	5.81
3rd quarter	0.67	1.36	0.15	0.22	3.20	5.60
4th quarter	0.64	1.29	0.13	0.23	3.16	5.45
1976 1st quarter	0.64	1.21	0.16	0.23	3.03	5.27
2nd quarter	0.69	1.20	0.17	0.21	3.02	5.29
3rd quarter	0.77	1.19	0.18	0.23	3.08	5.45

Metal working machine tools: sales and orders in October 1976

This article presents in table 1 monthly statistics of manufacturers' sales and orders for metal working machine tools up to and including October 1976. These monthly statistics will be published in the Business Monitor PM 332, and full details of the quarterly inquiry will be published in the Business Monitor PQ 332.

The monthly estimates up to and including March 1976, have been adjusted to be consistent with the more comprehensive quarterly inquiry, and the latest provisional estimates will be revised when the appropriate information becomes available. Net new orders and orders-on-hand have been adjusted to the same basis of coverage and valuation as sales. A monthly employment series for the industry is also provided in table 2.

Summary

Provisional statistics are now available for the months up to October of 1976. They confirm that sales are being maintained, in current value terms, virtually at a constant level. Individual monthly series of sales values have been unusually steady for the last six months suggesting some levelling out in terms of current values, although there might be a slight decrease in volume terms. However, there are signs of renewed activity in new orders received in the last three months, leading to slightly improved levels of home and total order books. These have shown a moderate recovery in current value terms from the trough levels reached in June and July 1976. It is too soon however to be sure that a positive upturn in the volume of total order books has commenced.

The estimate for employment shows that after a slight increase of some 200 employees in September, the October estimate is at the same level.

TABLE 2 Metal working machine tools: employment

Thousands

1974	1st quarter	52.9	1975	1st quarter	54.0	1976	1st quarter p	49.6
	2nd quarter	53.2		2nd quarter	53.0		2nd quarter p	49.4
	3rd quarter	54.0		3rd quarter	52.2		July p	49.3
	4th quarter	54.4		4th quarter p	50.6		August p	49.5
							September p	49.7
							October	49.7

Recent trends for machine tools

The latest statistics available for the three months to October 1976 showed that total deliveries in current value terms are still being maintained at a steady level. At £84 million for these last three months, sales were virtually the same as the previous three months,

TABLE 1 Metal working machine tools: orders and sales

£ million

	Sales			Orders outstanding*			New orders		
	Total	Home	Export	Total	Home	Export	Total	Home	Export
1970	218.6	137.3	81.3	159.5	86.8	72.7	213.9	130.8	83.1
1971	207.7	121.7	86.0	106.0	46.0	60.0	154.2	80.9	73.3
1972	184.7	111.6	73.1	113.3	55.7	57.6	192.0	121.3	70.7
1973	213.2	129.1	84.1	216.0	120.4	95.6	315.9	193.8	122.1
1974	254.4	149.9	104.5	324.6	175.0	149.6	363.0	204.5	158.5
1975 r	327.8	189.0	138.8	235.0	121.8	113.2	238.2	135.8	102.4
1975 1st quarter r	81.2	48.4	32.8	298.1	150.0	148.1	54.7	23.4	31.3
2nd quarter r	77.9	45.5	32.4	292.7	145.2	147.2	72.2	40.7	31.5
3rd quarter r	82.0	46.1	35.9	261.2	129.8	131.4	50.8	30.7	20.1
4th quarter r	86.7	49.0	37.7	235.0	121.8	113.2	60.5	41.0	19.5
1976 1st quarter r	91.5	50.1	41.4	205.7	98.6	107.1	62.2	26.9	35.3
2nd quarter p	83.8	47.6	36.2	195.1	98.0	97.1	73.2	47.0	26.2
3rd quarter p	83.1	50.9	32.2	199.3	104.2	95.1	87.3	57.1	30.2
1975 January r	22.6	13.3	9.3	323.0	169.3	153.7	21.0	7 6	13.4
February r	27.8	16.6	11.2	312.1	161.5	150.6	16.9	8.8	8.1
March r	30.8	18.5	12.3	298.1	150.0	148.1	16.8	7.0	9.8
April r	26.3	14.9	11.4	305.0	152.6	152.4	33.2	17.5	15.7
May r	27.1	15.5	11.6	300.8	149.1	151.7	22.9	12.0	10.9
June r	24.5	15.1	9.4	292.4	145.2	147.2	16.1	11.2	4.9
July r	26.1	14.1	12.0	282.3	140.0	142.3	16.0	8.9	7.1
August r	23.6	13.8	9.8	275.4	134.7	140.7	16.7	8.5	8.2
September r	32.3	18.2	14.1	261.2	129.8	131.4	18.1	13.3	4.8
October r	28.6	15.8	12.8	250.5	126.0	124.5	17.9	12.0	5.9
November r	28.1	17.0	11.1	234.4	117.2	117.2	12.0	7.8	4.2
December r	30.0	16.2	13.8	235.0	121.8	113.2	30.6	21.2	9.4
1976 January r	29.1	16.9	12.2	229.8	109.8	120.0	23.9	4.9	19.0
February r	29.8	15.8	14.0	218.6	104.9	113.7	18.6	10.9	7.7
March r	32.6	17.4	15.2	205.7	98.6	107.1	19.7	11.1	8.6
April p	26.9	16.2	10.7	207.2	97.9	109.3	28.4	15.5	12.9
May p	29.4	15.1	14.3	194.9	94.7	100.2	17.1	11.9	5.2
June p	27.5	16.3	11.2	195.1	98.0	97.1	27.7	19.6	8.1
July p	28.0	16.7	11.3	194.8	100.1	94.7	27.7	18.8	8.9
August p	24.5	15.4	9.1	200.1	102.7	97.4	29.8	18.0	11.8
September p	30.6	18.8	11.8	199.3	104.2	95.1	29.8	20.3	9.5
October p	29.8	17.6	12.2	199.6	106.9	92.7	30.1	20.3	9.8
Three monthly totals									
August 1976 to October 1976	84.9	51.8	33.1	199.6	106.9	92.7	89.7	58.6	31.1
May 1976 to July 1976	84.9	48.1	36.8	194.8	100.1	94.7	72.5	50.3	22.2
August 1975 to October 1975	84.5	47.8	36.7	250.5	126.0	124.5	52.7	33.8	18.9
Percentage change latest three months on:									
1 Previous three months	0	+8	−10	+2	+7	−2	+24	+17	+40
2 A year earlier	+1	+8	−10	−20	−15	−25	+70	+73	+65

p = provisional. r = revised.

* The values for orders outstanding relate to the ends of the periods shown.

Due to rounding, constituent figures may not sum to their respective totals.

but the 1 per cent increase over the same period a year ago must reflect a considerable decrease in volume terms. Home sales, currently running at a three monthly rate of £51 million, have been well maintained; indeed there was an increase by 8 per cent over the previous three months and over the same period in 1975. However, the performance of sales abroad was still lagging behind. At £33 million for these last three months, export sales were down 10 per cent over the previous three months and by a corresponding amount over the same period a year ago.

Total new orders (net of cancellations) received for the three months to October showed that new contracts secured, in current value terms, both at home and abroad rose markedly. At £89 million total new orders were in excess of total deliveries made for that period. They were also 24 per cent higher than contracts signed three months earlier, and showed an increase of 70 per cent over the corresponding period in 1975; this clearly indicates a definite rise in volume terms over and above increases due to higher prices. New home orders showed a continued improvement; new contracts received from home industries registered an increase of 17 per cent over the previous three months and an encouraging 73 per cent rise over the corresponding period a year ago. In current value terms orders received from the home market were in excess of deliveries made during the three month period by 15 per cent.

Export new orders also showed signs of picking-up. In the last three months to October there has been an improvement in new contracts signed from abroad. In value terms, new orders received increased by 40 per cent over the previous three months and were 65 per cent higher than the same period in 1975. However, this relatively marked increase might not be as pronounced in volume terms because of the changing exchange rate, but it indicates a definite improvement in performance.

As the overall intake in new orders in these last three months has increased marginally and exceeded total deliveries made during that period, the order books have made a partial recovery, and the decline of total orders-on-hand that occurred during 1975 and 1976 has been halted; home orders offsetting the still weak performance of export orders-on-hand. The total orders-on-hand at the end of October were £199 million, an increase of 2 per cent over the previous three months but still 20 per cent lower, in value terms, than the level a year ago.

Included in table 2 is a specially prepared estimate of the employment of the industry covered by this article; ie part of MLH332 concerned primarily with metal cutting and metal forming machine tools and parts, excluding welding equipment. The estimate for October showed that after a slight increase in the intake of new employees in the previous months, the October level was the same as September.

Inquiries on the published series should be addressed to, Department of Industry, Mechanical Engineering Statistics, Room 610, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG, tel. 01-212 0083.

Statistical forms issued by the Departments of Industry, Trade and Prices and Consumer Protection

The number of statistical forms sent out by the Departments of Industry, Trade and Prices and Consumer Protection was the subject of a parliamentary question by David Mitchell (Basingstoke) on 21 December. Mr Mitchell wanted to know the number of different questionnaires requiring an answer sent out by the Department of Trade last year; and how many or each sort were sent out.

Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Trade, gave the information in the following table. He explained that it relates to the questionnaires issued by the common statistical service of the Departments of Trade, Industry and Prices and Consumer Protection.

A variety of different forms are used in the statistical inquiries, partly because a simpler form is often sent to the smaller businesses and partly because the detailed headings on the forms vary according to the industry or trade to which the business belongs.

Statistical forms issued by the Departments of Trade, Industry and Prices and Consumer Protection in 1976

Subject of statistical inquiry	Frequency	No. of forms per inquiry	Total number issued
Forms sent to firms in the distributive and service industries			
Inquiries into capital expenditure and stocks			
Wholesaling and dealing	annual	11,500	11,500
Motor trades	annual	6,000	6,000
Retail distribution	annual	19,300	19,300
Property owning	annual	8,900	8,900
Catering	annual	17,500	17,500
Transport and entertainment	annual	9,000	9,000
Film exhibitors	annual	1,600	1,600
Insurance companies' and private pension funds' assets and financial transactions	annual and quarterly	380	1,900
Retail sales, stocks, HP, TV rental and relay	monthly	5,470	65,600
Finance houses and check trading	monthly and quarterly	350	3,500
Catering turnover	monthly	2,420	29,000
Motor trades turnover and purchases	quarterly	1,450	5,800
Capital expenditure	quarterly	1,700	6,800
Investment intentions	4-monthly	970	2,900
Wholesalers' stocks	quarterly	725	2,900
UK coastal trade inquiry(a)	monthly	70	400
UK sea passenger movements inquiry	on arrival/ departure		67,500
Computer services inquiry	quarterly	150	600
Food price survey	weekly	50	2,500
Register proving forms(b)	one-off		72,000
Total			335,200

(a) Now terminated.
(b) Includes a large special inquiry to improve the quality of the retail register prior to the first annual retail inquiry in 1976.

Subject of statistical inquiry	Frequency	No. of forms per inquiry	Total number issued
Forms sent to firms in the production industries			
Industries' sales	quarterly	29,000	116,000
Census of production (manufacturing)	annual	35,000	35,000
Census of production (construction)	annual	13,000	13,000
Mines and quarries	annual	4,100	4,100
Building materials production	quarterly	725	2,900
	monthly	650	7,800
Engineering sales and orders	monthly	2,200	26,400
Electricity generated by large users	quarterly	225	900
Miscellaneous inquiries into production stocks and/or orders	monthly and quarterly		68,200
Purchases of fuel by large users	quarterly	800	3,200
Fuel stocks/consumption of large users	monthly in winter		
	quarterly in summer	900	7,200
Expenditure on research and development – 2nd stage	every 2-3 years	2,400	2,400
Manufacturers' capital expenditure	quarterly	2,200	8,800
regional extension(a)	quarterly	1,200	4,800
Manufacturers' investment intentions	4-monthly	1,800	5,400
Manufacturers' stocks	quarterly	850	3,400
	monthly	1,000	12,000
Export prospects survey	quarterly	75	300
Wholesale prices(c)	quarterly	600	2,400
	monthly	11,000	132,600
Overseas transactions(d)	annual	4,400	4,400
	quarterly	750	3,000
Company liquidity(d)	quarterly	215	1,200
Register proving forms	one-off		22,700
Share register survey – nominee analysis	one-off	4,500	4,500
Total			492,600

(c) A shuttle form is used.
(d) Also covers firms in the distributive and service industries.
(e) One-off inquiry addressed to shareholders.

Capital expenditure of the manufacturing, distributive and service industries in the third quarter of 1976

Manufacturing industry

Capital expenditure by manufacturing industry in the third quarter of 1976 is now estimated to have been £411 million, at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted, £8 million less than the provisional estimate, and a rise of 1 per cent from the second quarter level.

In the first three quarters of 1976 the volume of investment was about 8 per cent below the level in the first three quarters of 1975. As investment was falling during 1975 and has been rising during 1976, the fall for the year as a whole is unlikely to be as great. Only one industry, metal manufacture with a rise of 10 per cent, had a higher level of investment in the first three quarters of 1976 than in the corresponding period last year. Large falls were recorded for the textiles, leather and clothing (29 per cent) and the paper, printing and publishing (21 per cent) industries. The remaining industries had falls of between 13 and 4 per cent. Expenditure by all manufacturing industry on vehicles was 12 per cent higher in the first three quarters of 1976 than in the corresponding period of 1975, and on new building work and plant and machinery it was lower by 21 per cent and 7 per cent respectively.

Between the second and third quarters of 1976 large increases were recorded by the food, drink and tobacco and the chemicals industries (10 per cent and 9 per cent respectively). Smaller increases were shown by the engineering, shipbuilding and metal goods, the vehicles and the residual 'other manufacturing' industries while the remaining four industries all recorded significant falls.

Distributive and service industries (excluding shipping)

Additional data in respect of the distributive and service industries (excluding shipping) provide confirmation that their capital expenditure in the third quarter of 1976 was about £472 million, at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted. Investment in the first three quarters of 1976 fell by about 6 per cent, compared with that in the corresponding period of the previous year. Expenditure on new building work was reduced by some 10 per cent, and on plant and machinery, by 7 per cent, but investment in vehicles increased by 6 per cent.

In the corresponding comparison according to industry groups, expenditure by wholesalers was little changed, while investment by retailers increased by 4 per cent, and the figures for the residual group of industries indicated a reduction of 9 per cent.

Shipping industry

The provisional estimate of £63 million, at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, for investment by the shipping industry in the third quarter of 1976 has been revised to £68 million. The variation in the figures for the first three quarters of 1976 serves to accentuate the fluctuating character of this series.

Note

The estimation of changes in the volume of capital expenditure (as distinct from changes at current prices) is subject to greater error when price rises are larger, and this should be borne in mind in using the figures.

Inquiries: 01-215 3175 (Manufacturing); 01-215 3345 (Distributive and Service).

TABLE 1 Fixed capital expenditure at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted of manufacturing, distributive and service industries

£ million

Period	Total	Analysis by industrial sectors: Manufacturing industries	Analysis by industrial sectors: Distributive and service industries (excluding shipping)	Analysis by industrial sectors: Shipping industry	Analysis by type of asset: New building work	Analysis by type of asset: Vehicles	Analysis by type of asset: Plant and machinery
1966	3,228	1,774	1,334	120	938	556	1,733
1967	3,314	1,738	1,407	170	939	603	1,772
1968	3,703 (3,615)*	1,851 (1,800)*	1,561 (1,554)*	290 (260)*	963	759 (729)*	1,980 (1,922)*
1969	3,893 (3,981)*	1,978 (2,029)*	1,683 (1,690)*	233 (263)*	1,044	728 (758)*	2,120 (2,178)*
1970	4,294	2,130	1,799	364	1,063	859	2,372
1971	4,284	1,991	1,930	364	1,114	832	2,338
1972	4,293	1,739	2,071	482	1,044	1,018	2,230
1973	4,731	1,872	2,362	498	1,118	1,124	2,489
1974	4,690	2,024	2,251	415	1,162	1,019	2,509
1975	4,040	1,737	1,964	339	1,004	769	2,217
1971 1st quarter	1,051	513	467	71	276	185	590
2nd quarter	1,082	499	479	104	276	226	581
3rd quarter	1,094	498	495	101	281	218	595
4th quarter	1,057	480	489	88	281	204	572
1972 1st quarter	1,053	458	487	107	260	230	564
2nd quarter	1,078	429	521	128	262	260	557
3rd quarter	1,058	425	522	111	256	251	551
4th quarter	1,103	427	540	136	266	278	559
1973 1st quarter	1,198	467	578	154	278	307	613
2nd quarter	1,134	449	586	99	278	251	606
3rd quarter	1,171	489	583	99	291	259	620
4th quarter	1,228	467	615	146	271	307	650
1974 1st quarter	1,171	510	591	71	301	226	644
2nd quarter	1,161	502	562	97	288	250	623
3rd quarter	1,177	501	548	128	288	277	613
4th quarter	1,180	511	550	120	285	265	629
1975 1st quarter	1,063	471	497	95	274	224	565
2nd quarter	1,034	444	495	95	259	212	563
3rd quarter	1,002	416	496	90	243	205	554
4th quarter	941	406	476	59	227	179	535
1976 1st quarter	923	402	460	61	227	186	510
2nd quarter	910	408	474	27	222	158	529
3rd quarter	950	411	472	68	222	200	528

The figures given above cover a wide sector of the economy, accounting – after exclusion of dwellings – for some 55 per cent of all UK gross domestic fixed capital formation in 1974. The scope of manufacturing and the distributive and service industries is defined in the notes at the end of the article, and falls very largely in the private sector of the economy, although some public sector elements are included as appropriate (notably the British Steel Corporation, in manufacturing industry). Exploration and development work in the North Sea (Order II) is excluded.

* After allowing for expenditure, brought forward into 1968 from 1969 to secure the higher rate of investment grants which ended on 31 December 1968: estimated at £51 million for manufacturing industry, £7 million for distributive and service industries, and £30 million for shipping. The estimate for shipping is particularly uncertain because of the erratic nature of this industry's capital expenditure, while that for the distributive and service industries is uncertain because of the smallness of the effect.

TABLE 2 Fixed capital expenditure of manufacturing industry at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

Period	Total all manufacturing industries	Analysis by industry group: Food, drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals	Metal manufacture	Engineering shipbuilding and metal goods	Vehicles	Textiles leather and clothing	Paper printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries	Analysis by type of asset: New building work	Vehicles	Plant and machinery
1966	1,773.7	203.3	78.1	304.8	151.5	361.6	193.2	164.3	111.1	205.8	363.4	98.3	1,312.0
1967	1,737.7	236.5	123.7	256.1	155.4	353.2	194.6	133.0	109.0	176.2	319.6	99.5	1,318.6
1968	1,851.2 (1,800.2)*	247.1	127.7	256.0	145.8	392.2	172.2	176.7	112.2	221.3	335.9	109.2	1,406.1 (1,355.1)*
1969	1,977.5 (2,028.5)*	238.8	102.9	296.4	167.9	394.0	208.7	189.4	121.3	258.1	390.1	115.9	1,471.5 (1,522.5)*
1970	2,129.8	246.4	82.8	382.3	256.4	422.3	233.4	170.9	134.2	201.1	391.2	114.7	1,623.9
1971	1,990.7	248.6	118.5	333.9	296.3	373.3	149.2	144.4	110.8	215.7	357.1	113.4	1,520.2
1972	1,739.2	258.7	100.8	240.0	255.3	343.8	98.8	120.0	101.8	220.0	305.5	123.3	1,310.4
1973	1,871.7	290.1	39.8	192.4	213.9	428.4	143.8	178.5	124.0	260.8	330.8	133.0	1,407.9
1974	2,024.0	294.8	44.9	223.1	250.5	479.4	158.3	190.3	131.6	251.1	361.4	138.2	1,524.4
1975	1,737.2	223.9	52.8	270.5	281.0	379.4	125.9	126.7	102.7	174.3	307.3	104.5	1,325.4
1971 1st quarter	513.4	62.8	26.0	88.4	72.7	103.1	40.3	41.0	27.9	51.2	90.9	27.9	394.6
2nd quarter	499.0	61.0	26.7	78.7	71.3	96.4	40.7	39.5	29.4	55.3	90.0	29.0	380.0
3rd quarter	497.9	62.7	31.6	84.9	77.4	89.8	36.5	32.2	27.3	55.5	87.2	27.2	383.5
4th quarter	480.4	62.1	34.2	81.9	74.9	84.0	31.7	31.7	26.2	53.7	89.0	29.3	362.1
1972 1st quarter	458.1	60.0	30.8	69.0	84.1	82.1	26.2	26.3	22.1	57.5	79.8	28.2	350.1
2nd quarter	429.1	62.4	27.2	62.8	62.4	81.0	23.2	30.2	25.7	54.2	77.8	29.6	321.7
3rd quarter	424.8	67.8	22.2	57.5	53.6	88.5	23.5	30.3	26.7	54.7	76.3	31.9	316.6
4th quarter	427.2	68.5	20.6	50.7	55.2	92.2	25.9	33.2	27.3	53.6	71.6	33.6	322.0
1973 1st quarter	466.8	76.3	17.9	49.8	59.4	99.0	32.8	40.9	31.4	59.3	76.7	34.0	356.1
2nd quarter	448.9	64.8	18.1	49.3	40.7	106.4	34.0	40.5	30.8	64.3	78.2	31.9	338.8
3rd quarter	488.6	73.0	13.9	46.8	59.6	110.1	38.0	48.2	30.8	68.2	89.2	33.7	365.7
4th quarter	467.4	76.0	−10.1	46.5	54.2	112.9	39.0	48.9	31.0	69.0	86.7	33.4	347.3
1974 1st quarter	509.9	78.9	9.9	49.7	55.4	124.4	40.7	49.7	31.0	70.2	91.4	34.5	384.0
2nd quarter	502.2	76.0	9.8	51.5	60.8	117.6	39.8	48.6	34.1	64.0	89.4	35.3	377.5
3rd quarter	501.2	73.4	11.2	56.0	58.7	119.4	40.2	48.2	33.0	61.1	87.9	35.3	378.0
4th quarter	510.7	66.5	14.0	65.9	75.6	118.0	37.6	43.8	33.5	55.8	92.7	33.1	384.9
1975 1st quarter	471.2	63.2	12.8	68.2	69.8	106.5	35.3	36.7	29.0	49.7	87.4	28.5	355.3
2nd quarter	444.4	57.5	14.3	70.0	67.7	99.3	32.2	32.4	25.6	45.4	80.2	25.3	338.9
3rd quarter	416.1	49.7	14.7	69.3	70.9	89.4	28.6	29.0	25.4	39.1	72.7	24.9	318.5
4th quarter	405.5	53.5	11.0	63.0	72.6	84.2	29.8	28.6	22.7	40.1	67.0	25.8	312.7
1976 1st quarter	401.8	51.7	14.3	59.9	77.0	85.5	27.3	26.0	22.4	37.7	66.5	26.7	308.6
2nd quarter	408.3	49.6	12.9	66.5	80.0	84.4	31.1	23.3	21.5	39.0	62.2	31.2	314.9
3rd quarter	410.7	54.7	10.7	72.2	72.2	87.0	32.6	20.7	19.6	41.0	61.1	30.3	319.3

TABLE 3 Fixed capital expenditure in the distributive and service industries (excluding shipping) at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

Period	Total	Analysis by industry group: Wholesale distribution	Retail distribution	Other industries	Analysis by type of asset: New building work	Vehicles	Plant and machinery
1966	1,334	147	231	956	570	342	421
1967	1,407	170	225	1,012	616	338	453
1968	1,561 (1,554)*	166	283	1,112 (1,105)*	624	368	570 (563)*
1969	1,683 (1,690)*	160	295	1,228 (1,235)*	650	389	643 (650)*
1970	1,799	176	299	1,325	666	394	739
1971	1,930	185	334	1,411	754	367	809
1972	2,071	198	400	1,473	736	436	899
1973	2,362	197	460	1,705	786	503	1,073
1974	2,251	174	432	1,645	798	472	981
1975	1,964	130	404	1,403	694	381	888
1971 1st quarter	467	44	82	341	184	89	195
2nd quarter	479	46	86	346	185	96	198
3rd quarter	495	47	84	363	194	92	209
4th quarter	489	48	81	360	192	89	208
1972 1st quarter	487	49	91	347	178	102	207
2nd quarter	521	50	96	375	184	108	229
3rd quarter	522	46	103	373	180	112	231
4th quarter	540	53	109	378	195	114	232
1973 1st quarter	578	52	110	416	201	123	254
2nd quarter	586	50	118	419	199	120	267
3rd quarter	583	47	119	417	201	130	252
4th quarter	615	48	114	454	184	130	301
1974 1st quarter	591	47	107	438	209	123	259
2nd quarter	562	43	105	414	198	120	245
3rd quarter	548	45	102	401	199	115	234
4th quarter	550	39	118	393	192	114	244
1975 1st quarter	497	35	94	368	186	102	209
2nd quarter	495	34	102	360	179	93	224
3rd quarter	496	31	103	361	170	92	234
4th quarter	476	29	105	341	160	95	222
1976 1st quarter	460	32	107	321	160	100	200
2nd quarter	474	35	110	330	160	101	213
3rd quarter	472	35	95	341	160	104	207

TABLE 4 Fixed capital expenditure at current prices of manufacturing, distributive and service industries

£ million

Period	Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries (excluding shipping)	Shipping industry
1966	2,787	1,517	1,172	99
1967	2,861	1,485	1,236	140
1968	3,304	1,639	1,418	247
1969	3,629	1,822	1,589	217
1970	4,294	2,130	1,799	364
1971	4,648	2,187	2,078	384
1972	4,971	2,044	2,373	553
1973	6,092	2,437	3,020	635
1974	7,087	3,145	3,389	611
1975	7,664	3,449	3,653	561
1971 1st quarter	1,076	523	489	65
2nd quarter	1,131	519	504	108
3rd quarter	1,173	560	520	93
4th quarter	1,268	585	566	118
1972 1st quarter	1,160	512	543	105
2nd quarter	1,199	477	583	140
3rd quarter	1,197	504	582	111
4th quarter	1,415	552	666	197
1973 1st quarter	1,455	576	713	166
2nd quarter	1,383	541	724	118
3rd quarter	1,471	635	727	109
4th quarter	1,782	685	856	242
1974 1st quarter	1,619	711	818	90
2nd quarter	1,633	705	802	125
3rd quarter	1,795	795	827	173
4th quarter	2,099	934	943	223
1975 1st quarter	1,841	843	858	141
2nd quarter	1,828	815	875	137
3rd quarter	1,917	852	920	146
4th quarter	2,078	940	1,001	137
1976 1st quarter	1,960	906	944	110
2nd quarter	1,907	892	971	45
3rd quarter	2,111	982	1,007	123

NOTES TO TABLES

Capital expenditure comprises expenditure on vehicles (including ships) and plant and machinery less receipts from sales of these assets, and on new building work.

The analysis by industry group follows the Standard Industrial Classification Revised 1968 edition:

Manufacturing Orders III to XIX
Distributive Trades Order XXIII
Wholesale MLH 810, 811, 812, 831, 832 (except leasing by Finance Houses and similar businesses)
Retail MLH 820, 821
Other Industries Order XX (Construction): XXII (Transport and Communication) excluding 701 – Railways, 706 – Port and Inland Water Transport, 707 – Air Transport and 708 – Postal Services and Telecommunications: XXIV (Insurance, Banking, Finance and Business Services) including leasing by Finance Houses and similar Businesses and excluding Trustee Savings Banks; XXV (Professional and Scientific Services) excluding 872 – Educational Services and 874 – Medical and Dental Services; and XXVI (Miscellaneous Services).

SIC Orders I (Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing), II (Mining and Quarrying), XXI (Gas, Electricity and Water), and XXVI (Public Administration and Defence) are completely excluded.

The estimates with the exception of those for manufacturing industry in Table 2, are shown to the nearest £m but should not be regarded as accurate to this degree and care should be taken in using the industry figures in Tables 2 and 3, because of the margins of error involved in the quarterly seasonal adjustments. Also, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the total and the sum of the constituent parts due to rounding.

Cinema admissions and takings in October

During October, counted as a four-week period, the weekly average of admissions to cinemas in Great Britain was 2.06 million and the weekly average of gross box office takings was £1.61 million. The comparable figures for October 1975 were 2.02 million and £1.37 million.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the two weeks ended Friday, 31 December 1976.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Golden Opportunities	BR/E 38912/26/12/81	23	20 December	EMI Film Distributors Ltd	Samuelson Film Service Ltd
A Woman's Best Friend	BR/E 38913/26/12/81	5	20 December	New Realm Distributors Ltd	Oppidan (UK) Ltd
Hollywood	BR/E 38916/26/12/81	31	24 December	Columbia Warner Distributors Ltd	Global Films Ltd and Queensway Promotions Ltd
The Green Desert	BR/E 38917/26/12/81	19	24 December	Columbia Warner Distributors Ltd	Global Films Ltd and Queensway Promotions Ltd
Review No. 5 (30th year)	BR/E 38921/2/1/82	10	31 December	Data Film Distributors Ltd	National Coal Board
Movietone News 2481	BR/E/38647/26/12/81	8	24 December	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
Movietone News 2482	BR/E 38648/2/1/82	8	31 December	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
			COMMUNITY		
The Spider's Stratagem	EC/38914/26/12/81	97	20 December	Artificial Eye Film Co Ltd	Red Film SRL Italy
Dolls For Sale	EC/38922/2/1/82	80	31 December	Cinecenta Film Distributors Ltd	Eurocine, Paris and CRC, Rome
Dorothea	EC/38923/2/1/82	63	31 December	Cinecenta Film Distributors Ltd	Hallelujah Film GmbH and Coproduktionsteam KG, Munich and Stephan Films, Paris
			FOREIGN		
King Kong	F 38911	134	20 December	EMI Film Distributors Ltd	Dino De Laurentiis Corporation, California
Victory At Entebbe	F 38915	119	21 December	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd	Wolper Productions Incorporated, California
Battle of Midway	F 38918	133	24 December	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures, California
The Manhandlers	F 38919	81	29 December	Brent Walker Film Distributors Ltd	Premier Releasing Organisation California
The Swinging Barmaids	F 38920	83	29 December	Brent Walker Film Distributors Ltd	Premier Releasing Organisation California
Raid on Entebbe	F 38924	124	31 December	Hemdale International Films Ltd	Twentieth Century Fox Corporartion, California

Amendment to the Register
The title of the film 'Doberman Patrol (F 37505) registered on 30 May 1974 has been amended to 'Trapped'

Catalogues of government publications

Her Majesty's Stationery Office offer their customers a comprehensive service which will enable them to judge whether any other titles in the vast output of government publications would help them in their work or leisure. Full information about this service can be obtained by sending a postcard to Publicity Section, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Room C46, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1BN, asking for the CATALOGUE SERVICE LEAFLET.

Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks in the third quarter of 1976

Manufacturing industry

Revised figures indicate that there was little change in manufacturers' stocks, at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, in the third quarter of 1976. Stocks of materials and fuel rose during the quarter by about £20 million but this was largely offset by a fall in the other two assets.

Destocking was mainly concentrated in the engineering, shipbuilding and vehicles industry group with compensating rises in the stocks of the food, drink and tobacco, chemicals, and metal manufacturing industries.

The stocks/output ratio is estimated to have been 103.6 at the end of September compared with 103.0 at the end of June and 110.2 at the end of June 1975.

Distributive industries

Further information from wholesalers confirms that there was little change in the overall level of their stocks in the third quarter of 1976. A reduction in stocks held by general wholesale distributors was offset by increases in the stocks for dealers in coal, builders' materials, etc., and dealers in industrial materials and machinery. Retailers' stocks increased by about £20 million, at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, in the third quarter.

Note

The estimation of physical change in stock is subject to greater error when price increases are larger, and this should be borne in mind in using the figures.

Inquiries: 01-215 3176 (Manufacturing); 01-215 3345 (Distributive and Service).

TABLE 1 Value of physical increase in industry's stocks at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

	Total	Manufacturing	Wholesaling	Retailing
Level of stocks at end 1975	14,182	10,399	1,807	1,976
1970	379	325	68	−14
1971	−74	−148	52	22
1972	−82	−145	48	15
1973	888	404	102	382
1974	636	666	81	−111
1975	−526	−392	−111	−23
1971 1st quarter	24	26	14	−16
2nd quarter	−62	−95	26	7
3rd quarter	−26	−49	9	14
4th quarter	−10	−30	3	17
1972 1st quarter	−44	−62	17	1
2nd quarter	−29	−70	1	40
3rd quarter	−43	−36	6	−13
4th quarter	34	23	24	−13
1973 1st quarter	292	172	37	82
2nd quarter	307	99	3	205
3rd quarter	119	42	29	48
4th quarter	170	91	32	47
1974 1st quarter	−41	−21	18	−38
2nd quarter	259	197	43	19
3rd quarter	322	358	3	−39
4th quarter	96	133	17	−53
1975 1st quarter	−52	18	−31	−38
2nd quarter	−226	−105	−54	−66
3rd quarter	−225	−234	−29	38
4th quarter	−23	−70	4	43
1976 1st quarter	66	31	23	12
2nd quarter	−192	−115	−22	−55
3rd quarter r	30	5	3	22

TABLE 2 Value of the physical increase of stocks held by manufacturing industry at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

	Analysis by industry group							Analysis by type of asset		
	All manufacturing industries	Food, drink and tobacco	Chemicals, coal and petroleum products	Metal manufacture	Engineering, shipbuilding, vehicles and metal goods	Textiles, leather and clothing	Other manufacturing industries	Materials and fuel	Work in progress	Finished goods
Level of stocks at end 1975	10,399	1,324	1,097	829	5,228	876	1,045	3,546	4,028	2,826
1970	325	11	43	50	222	1	−1	113	122	90
1971	−148	11	17	5	−164	−14	−3	−146	−98	96
1972	−145	20	3	−44	−85	−53	15	−41	32	−136
1973	404	72	80	−13	230	13	23	244	252	−92
1974	666	75	172	26	270	46	78	276	107	283
1975	−392	−99	−40	39	−120	−40	−132	−380	−112	99
1971 1st quarter	26	8	−5	34	−26	9	6	−21	−22	69
2nd quarter	−95	−5	16	−27	−43	−32	−4	−45	−63	13
3rd quarter	−49	−12	−2	−8	−27	5	−5	−42	−8	1
4th quarter	−30	21	9	6	−69	4	−1	−37	−5	13
1972 1st quarter	−62	8	15	−50	−11	−13	−11	−13	12	−61
2nd quarter	−70	16	−21	5	−67	−13	10	−53	20	−38
3rd quarter	−36	−8	6	−4	−15	−17	2	3	−7	−32
4th quarter	23	4	3	5	8	−11	13	22	7	−5
1973 1st quarter	172	3	19	29	85	−5	42	73	100	−1
2nd quarter	99	24	31	−4	53	6	−12	74	51	−27
3rd quarter	42	24	16	−15	21	3	−7	31	59	−48
4th quarter	91	20	15	−24	71	9	–	66	43	−17
1974 1st quarter	−21	22	44	−50	−19	−1	−18	66	−7	−80
2nd quarter	197	27	39	1	55	30	46	61	21	115
3rd quarter	358	42	74	39	136	24	42	135	73	150
4th quarter	133	−16	15	36	98	−7	7	14	21	98
1975 1st quarter	18	−12	−5	55	7	−1	−26	−129	29	118
2nd quarter	−105	−54	−22	15	15	−22	−37	−59	−31	−16
3rd quarter	−234	−28	−32	−26	−86	−16	−46	−133	−72	−29
4th quarter	−70	−4	19	−5	−56	−2	−22	−58	−38	26
1976 1st quarter	31	−34	24	−7	38	10	−1	−43	37	37
2nd quarter	−115	−11	16	−5	−81	−19	−15	−37	−66	−12
3rd quarter r	5	18	24	37	−66	−9	1	20	−13	−3

TABLE 3 Value of the physical increase of stocks held by wholesalers at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted £ million

	Total wholesalers	General wholesale distributors	Dealers in coal, builders materials, etc.	Dealers in industrial materials and machinery
Level of stocks at end 1975	1,807	1,040	147	620
1970	68	15	—	53
1971	52	41	−3	14
1972	48	41	11	−3
1973	102	127	−1	−24
1974	81	6	—	75
1975	−111	−142	−13	44
1971 1st quarter	14	3	1	11
2nd quarter	26	20	1	5
3rd quarter	9	12	—	−3
4th quarter	3	6	−4	2
1972 1st quarter	17	2	1	14
2nd quarter	1	4	2	−5
3rd quarter	6	22	2	−18
4th quarter	24	13	7	5
1973 1st quarter	37	37	−1	1
2nd quarter	3	13	3	−13
3rd quarter	29	41	1	−13
4th quarter	32	36	−4	—
1974 1st quarter	18	19	6	−7
2nd quarter	43	21	1	22
3rd quarter	3	−22	−4	29
4th quarter	17	−12	−2	31
1975 1st quarter	−31	−52	12	9
2nd quarter	−54	−52	−11	9
3rd quarter	−29	−26	−6	4
4th quarter	4	−12	−7	23
1976 1st quarter	23	10	20	−7
2nd quarter	−22	8	−10	−20
3rd quarter r	3	−23	6	21

TABLE 4 Increase in the book value of manufacturers' and distributors' stocks £ million

	Total	Manufacturing	Wholesaling	Retailing
Level of stocks at end 1975	28,340	21,287	3,629	3,423
1970	1,305	1,038	162	105
1971	768	471	160	137
1972	950	618	217	115
1973	3,408	2,331	593	484
1974	6,299	5,098	779	422
1975	3,302	2,574	212	516
1971 1st quarter	260	211	29	21
2nd quarter	295	180	60	55
3rd quarter	113	28	70	14
4th quarter	100	53	—	47
1972 1st quarter	90	60	5	26
2nd quarter	198	113	25	60
3rd quarter	251	148	106	−3
4th quarter	412	298	82	32
1973 1st quarter	600	426	71	102
2nd quarter	678	494	88	96
3rd quarter	959	604	239	116
4th quarter	1,171	807	194	170
1974 1st quarter	1,756	1,492	204	60
2nd quarter	1,845	1,438	224	183
3rd quarter	1,521	1,249	199	73
4th quarter	1,177	919	152	106
1975 1st quarter	987	927	−16	76
2nd quarter	640	607	−20	53
3rd quarter	553	257	124	172
4th quarter	1,122	783	123	215
1976 1st quarter	1,004	829	119	56
2nd quarter	1,216	1,079	147	−9
3rd quarter r	1,762	1,262	327	173

Book values exclude VAT. Purchase Tax payable on retailer's stock prior to the second quarter of 1973.

Notes relating to Tables 1 to 4

The analysis by industry group follows the Standard Industrial Classification (1968 edition).

Manufacturing Orders III to XIX.

Distributive Trades Order XXII:

Wholesale MLH 810, 811, 812, 831, 832 (except leasing by Finance Houses)

Retail MLH 820, 821

The estimates are shown to the nearest £ million but should not be regarded as accurate to this degree and care should be taken in using the industry figures in Tables 2 and 3 because of the margin of error involved in quarterly seasonal adjustments. Differences between totals and the sum of constituent parts are due to rounding.

TABLE 5 The relationship of manufacturers' stocks to manufacturing production

	Index numbers – 4th quarter 1969 = 100 Seasonally adjusted				Index numbers – 4th quarter 1969 = 100 Seasonally adjusted		
	Stock levels at 1970 prices	Production (with 1970 net output weight)	Ratio of stocks to production		Stock levels at 1970 prices	Production (with 1970 net output weight)	Ratio of stocks to production
1967 Q1	94	89	105.4	1972 Q1	101	98	103.0
2	94	90	104.6	2	101	102	98.4
3	94	90	104.5	3	100	103	96.9
4	94	92	102.6	4	100	107	94.0
1968 Q1	93	94	98.8	1973 Q1	102	111	92.2
2	94	96	98.4	2	103	111	93.3
3	96	96	99.5	3	104	112	92.7
4	97	97	99.8	4	105	111	93.9
1969 Q1	98	98	100.0	1974 Q1	104	107	97.4
2	99	100	98.7	2	106	110	96.8
3	99	100	99.5	3	110	110	99.8
4	100	100	100.0	4	111	106	105.0
1970 Q1	101	100	101.1	1975 Q1	112	106	104.9
2	102	100	102.0	2	111	100	110.2
3	103	101	101.7	3	108	100	108.4
4	103	101	102.2	4	107	100	107.0
1971 Q1	104	100	104.0	1976 Q1	108	102	105.5
2	103	100	102.3	2	107	103	103.0
3	102	100	101.8	3	107	103	103.6
4	102	99	102.7				

1 The index numbers of the level of stocks relate to the end of each quarter: the index of production refers to production during the quarter.

2 The 1970 index of production has been rebased on the fourth quarter of 1969 for the purpose of this table.

3 The index numbers of the stocks production ratio are calculated from unrounded estimates of the data in the previous two columns.

Manufacturers' stocks in October

It is estimated that there was little change in manufacturers' stocks, at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, in October. There was probably a moderate rise in work in progress during the month accompanied by an offsetting fall in stocks of materials and fuel. There appears to have been little change in stocks of finished goods.

Monthly figures from January 1975 adjusted to agree with the quarterly figures published in the preceding article are shown below.

£ million

	1970 prices seasonally adjusted
1975 January	+10
February	+20
March	−10
April	−30
May	−10
June	−70
July	−80
August	−50
September	−100
October	−70
November	−10
December	+10
1976 January	+40
February	No change
March	−10
April	−90
May	+40
June	−60
July	−50
August	+20
September	+30
October	No change

Inquiries: 01-215 3176.

Motor vehicle output in November 1976

Production of cars in the four weeks ending 27 November of 120,375 units (30,094 per week) was 8 per cent above the level in November 1975. In the first 11 months of 1976, the rate of production for both home and export was 4 per cent higher than in the corresponding period last year.

Production of commercial vehicles of 33,628 units (8,407 per week) was 11 per cent above the level in November 1975. The rate of production in the 11 months to November was 4 per cent lower than in the corresponding period of 1975; that for the home market falling by 9 per cent while that for export rose by 2 per cent.

(The summaries which follow are based on the seasonally adjusted figures in table 2).

Cars

November car production of 110,000 units was 4 per cent above the monthly average for 1975. Output in the three months September to November fell by 1 per cent compared with the preceding three months. Within the total, home market production fell by 4 per cent while production for export rose by 5 per cent.

Commercial vehicles

Commercial vehicle production of 32,600 units was 3 per cent above the average monthly level in 1975. In the period September to November, output rose by 4 per cent compared with the preceding three months. Output for the home market rose by 6 per cent while that for export rose by 1 per cent. Inquiries: 01-212 0788.

TABLE 1 Recorded production

Production figures of road motor vehicles cover complete vehicles, chassis with engines for delivery as such and un-assembled vehicles for export. Road tractors are included but battery operated road vehicles are excluded.

Production for export may differ from actual exports as recorded in the Overseas Trade Statistics because of differences in timing and coverage.

		Passenger cars (including taxis)				Commercial road vehicles			
	No. of weeks	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average
1968	52	1,013,163	802,773	1,815,936	34,922	259,331	149,855	409,186	7,869
1969	53	892,758	824,315	1,717,073	32,398	272,998	192,778	465,776	8,788
1970	52	918,109	722,857	1,640,966	31,557	267,407	190,125	457,532	8,799
1971	52	1,027,462	714,478	1,741,940	33,499	268,278	187,928	456,206	8,773
1972	52	1,307,881	613,430	1,921,311	36,948	272,649	135,470	408,119	7,848
1973	52	1,142,216	605,105	1,747,321	33,602	257,574	159,049	416,623	8,012
1974	52	937,932	596,187	1,534,119	29,502	232,373	170,193	402,566	7,742
1975	52	735,532	532,164	1,267,696	24,379	194,319	186,386	380,705	7,321
1975 1st quarter	13	242,571	139,736	382,307	29,408	61,402	46,808	108,210	8,324
2nd quarter	13	145,107	142,664	287,771	22,136	49,650	48,435	98,085	7,545
3rd quarter	13	151,830	117,925	269,755	20,750	39,136	38,724	77,860	5,989
4th quarter	13	196,024	131,839	327,863	25,220	44,131	52,419	96,550	7,427
1976 1st quarter	13	209,955	148,844	358,799	27,600	44,978	48,785	93,763	7,213
2nd quarter	13	205,839	143,677	349,516	26,886	46,510	51,249	97,759	7,520
3rd quarter	13	145,427	108,233	253,660	19,512	36,730	39,225	75,955	5,843
1975 January	4	79,301	46,278	125,579	31,395	19,997	14,429	34,426	8,606
February	4	84,826	43,032	127,858	31,964	19,669	15,619	35,288	8,822
March	5	78,444	50,426	128,870	25,774	21,736	16,760	38,496	7,699
April	4	57,260	48,895	106,155	26,539	16,866	14,418	31,284	7,821
May	4	35,750	36,423	72,173	18,043	15,879	16,070	31,949	7,987
June	5	52,097	57,346	109,443	21,888	16,905	17,947	34,852	6,970
July	4	39,303	32,345	71,648	17,912	10,995	12,480	23,475	5,869
August	4	40,219	38,525	78,744	19,686	10,117	10,271	20,388	5,097
September	5	72,308	47,055	119,363	23,873	18,024	15,973	33,997	6,799
October	4	60,873	36,246	97,119	24,280	14,964	16,352	31,316	7,829
November	4	65,941	46,021	111,962	27,991	13,994	16,300	30,294	7,574
December	5	69,210	49,572	118,782	23,756	16,173	19,767	34,940	6,988
1976 January	4	56,966	39,432	96,398	24,100	12,051	13,971	26,022	6,506
February	4	68,878	50,913	119,791	29,948	14,468	15,829	30,297	7,574
March	5	84,111	58,499	142,610	28,522	18,459	18,985	37,444	7,489
April	4	54,445	38,281	92,726	23,182	13,209	14,019	27,228	6,807
May	4	76,074	51,169	127,243	31,811	16,122	18,245	34,367	8,592
June	5	75,320	54,227	129,547	25,909	17,179	18,985	36,164	7,233
July	4	56,334	34,350	90,684	22,671	12,389	13,444	25,833	6,458
August	4	32,971	31,801	64,772	16,193	8,871	9,219	18,090	4,523
September	5	56,122	42,082	98,204	19,641	15,470	16,562	32,032	6,406
October	5	82,077	59,240	141,317	28,263	19,947	19,320	39,267	7,853
November	4	67,512	52,863	120,375	30,094	17,922	15,706	33,628	8,407

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TABLE 2 Production – seasonally adjusted

The seasonally adjusted series has been adjusted to exclude the effect of regularly recurring influences (eg holidays) but the figures still reflect the effect of factors that do not recur regularly (eg strikes).

Care should be taken not to interpret changes between one month and another as necessarily indicating the underlying trend. The averages in the latest three months and the previous three months give a more reliable guide to recent changes.

MONTHLY AVERAGE — Thousands

	Passenger cars			Commercial vehicles		
	For home market	For export	Total	For home market	For export	Total
1968	84	67	151	21.6	12.5	34.1
1969	74	69	143	22.7	16.1	38.8
1970	77	60	137	22.3	15.8	38.1
1971	86	59	145	22.3	15.7	38.0
1972	109	51	160	22.7	11.3	34.0
1973	95	50	145	21.5	13.2	34.7
1974	78	50	128	19.3	14.2	33.5
1975	61	45	106	16.1	15.5	31.6
1975 1st quarter	80	46	126	20.4	16.5	36.9
2nd quarter	47	44	91	15.6	14.6	30.2
3rd quarter	60	47	107	15.4	14.9	30.3
4th quarter	58	41	99	13.4	16.1	29.5
1976 1st quarter	69	48	117	14.8	17.0	31.8
2nd quarter	67	44	111	14.8	15.6	30.4
3rd quarter	60	44	104	14.8	15.0	29.8
1975 January	76	48	124	20.5	17.6	38.1
February	97	45	142	21.6	17.0	38.6
March	68	44	112	19.1	15.0	34.1
April	65	49	114	17.8	15.2	33.0
May	34	34	68	15.6	14.4	30.0
June	43	48	91	13.5	14.2	27.7
July	57	47	104	15.0	15.0	30.0
August	50	46	96	14.4	15.4	29.7
September	72	48	120	16.7	14.6	31.1
October	57	36	93	14.0	15.7	29.6
November	58	43	101	13.1	16.1	29.2
December	59	44	103	13.0	16.6	29.6
1976 January	56	41	97	12.4	17.2	29.6
February	80	54	134	16.0	17.3	33.3
March	71	50	121	15.9	16.6	32.5
April	64	40	104	14.4	15.4	29.8
May	74	48	122	15.9	16.5	32.4
June	63	46	109	13.9	15.1	29.0
July	82	51	133	17.1	16.2	33.3
August	42	38	80	12.7	13.8	26.5
September	56	44	100	14.4	15.1	29.5
October	62	47	109	15.0	14.9	29.9
November	60	50	110	17.0	15.6	32.6
Average of:						
Jun-Aug 1976	62	45	107	14.6	15.0	29.6
Sep-Nov 1976	59	47	106	15.5	15.2	30.7
Percentage change	−4	+5	−1	+6	+1	+4

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PQ337	Mechanical handling equipment for second quarter 1976
PQ351	Photographic and document copying equipment for third quarter 1976
PQ368	Electric appliances primarily for domestic use for second quarter 1976
PQ392	Cutlery, spoons, forks, tableware including safety razors and blades for third quarter 1976
PQ395	Cans and metal boxes for third quarter 1976
PQ399.1	Metal furniture for third quarter 1976
PQ399.3	Safes, locks, latches, keys and springs for third quarter 1976
PQ399.11	Metal finishing for third quarter 1976
PQ484	Cement for third quarter 1976
PQ481	Paper and board for third quarter 1976
PQ493	Brushes and brooms for third quarter 1976
PQ494.3	Sports equipment for third quarter 1976
PQ603	Water supply for third quarter 1976

Miscellaneous series

M6	Overseas travel and tourism for third quarter 1976

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Machines designed to increase production for the small shoe-maker with no power supply have been developed by Standard Engineering Co Ltd, Leicester. The range includes this sole-attaching machine. As well as enabling shoes to be made quickly and accurately, the machines, which are hand and foot operated, are also inexpensive and easily serviced, while being of a strong construction and having a high degree of reliability. The company has introduced a plan to help small firms take the first step from hand shoe-making towards shoe manufacture by machine, which includes advice on factory planning and training, and assistance to customers in commissioning plant.

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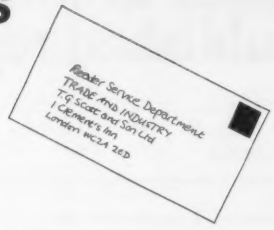

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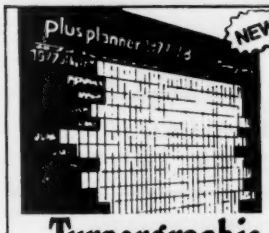

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